

Twin temples on a Fangshan mountainside witness the vicissitudes of sacred Buddhist texts.

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Italian design, mostly of the last 50 years, displays elegance and innovation.

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Jiang Yi, a housing sales rep, believes in building trust with her clients.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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By Xiao Rong

In Tang uniforms, 38 children bow solemnly to the five elderly professors, beginning their first lesson in Chinese traditional culture (国学 guo xue).

Rites done, two teachers lead group recital of the "Discipline of Students", the ancient Chinese classic.

Clapping hands, the students yell "You're so great!" to each other.

Next up, music 101: let's play zither and sheng. Children especially like the chimes, touching and admiring "the 7,000-year-old stones that can sing".

This is no rehearsal. This lesson marks the opening of the Andingmen Chinese Traditional Culture School, the first Saturday school of its kind in the city.

The free school teaches 4-6 year-olds the essence of China's traditional culture through recitation, explanation and display of Confucian cultural artifacts. Few among its founders — the China Confucius Society (CCS), Beijing Confucian Temple and Andingmen Street Office — anticipated the response.

## Two hundred calls

After its founding, the school received nearly 200 calls in two days from parents.

"We didn't imagine it would arouse so much attention, among both media and parents," said Zhang Yiyi, vice director of the family planning office of Andingmen Street Office.

The school focuses on the only child of families living in the Andingmen area.

Thirty-five traditional Chinese costumes were prepared, with three more added on opening day.

Of the 38, one third were the children of residents without a Beijing residency card (hukou).

## Happy, happy talk

Zhang Yujie said she was delighted to see her 4-year-old at play.

"I tried before to teach her poems of the Tang Dynasty," she said, "but to let her sing the poem, like the school does, is really a revolutionary idea."

Another parent identified a real need for classical poetry.

"I would rather let my son recite Chinese classics than let him go crazy about Japanese cartoons or McDonald's fast food," he said.

"If we don't let our children recite classics, they will all be reciting advertising jingles," said Li Chaoying, director of the cultural relic preservation department of Beijing Confucian Temple.

The school in the temple has invited professors from the China Confucius Society (CCS) to advise on the teaching of traditional culture.



Li Chaoying teaches children to play chimes

# Confucius Says: Sing & Play

## First traditional school opens in city temple



Photos by Zhang Hongjiang

### Ancient & modern

Liu Zengzhu, vice secretary-general of CCS, said they are trying to offer more scientific teaching methods to improve the school.

"A record of each child for us to track the teaching will be set up," he said. "For parents, we will also organize discussions to help them teach their kids after the school."

Feng Tao, one of the two teachers, said the spirit was similar to the Beijing Four Seas Children Classical-Reciting Guide and Education Center, where she worked full-time.

Feng said the difference is that any classics — domestic or overseas — are welcome at Four Seas.

On top of the Four Seas and the Andingmen Chinese Traditional Culture School, there are

25 government-run schools in Beijing that now encourage classics reading. Today, a total two million Chinese mainland children recite the classics.

"The classics' return to popularity and the warm response by parents in Beijing reflected a growing national trend," said Zhang Yiyi.

"But there is still a long way for the school to go," she said. "This is just an attempt to use our humble resources to help out local residents."

"Seven years from now when Beijing holds the 2008 Olympic Games,"

said Zhang, "we hope that our younger generation can introduce the classics of Chinese traditional culture with pride to foreign visitors instead of only saying 'hello' to them in English."

***'I would rather let my son recite Chinese classics than let him go crazy about Japanese cartoons or McDonald's fast food.'***

— parent

### Tradition vs Modernity

By Xiao Rong

Technical skills are over-emphasized in schools and the wider society, believes Guo Qijia, president of the school and also a professor of the Beijing Normal University.

"Actually Chinese classics include the abundant virtues and philosophies of our nation, and teach us to become men of virtue," Guo told *Beijing Today*.

"The value of reciting classics lies in the culture, rather than its practical use."

But there's a thin red line between traditional Chinese wisdom and backward feudal thinking.

"It's really ridiculous to teach children to recite classic works," said Beijing Normal University Professor Feng Zhongliang.

The 72-year-old revealed he had attended an old-style private school when he was young. The reciting of Confucian classics, he said, was "boring and useless".

Feng, a psychology professor, said in truth he did not oppose traditional culture, only certain traditional methods of teaching.

But a university history teacher, who requested anonymity, opposed teaching all "outdated" works to children.

"What is urgent now," he said, "is to establish the new social values of the socialist market economy instead of promoting the old values of feudal society."

"Besides, children are too young to discriminate between the essence and the dregs of traditional culture."

Professor Qian Xun of the China Confucius Society admitted outdated values do exist in traditional culture, but most remain relevant and valid.

"We don't have to either totally

accept traditional culture or totally reject it," he said.

This ongoing debate has swung — often violently — between both extremes in China over the last century.

During the May 4th Movement of 1919, intellectuals promoted the use of the vernacular in writing instead of the classical Chinese literary style.

During the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) Confucius and his theories became regarded as reactionary and degenerate, with dire consequences for disciples. Western fads became so popular towards the end of the 1980s that Confucius was again overwhelmed.

"If a nationality has no spiritual support, it's really sad," said Dong Naiqiang, a professor of Beijing Normal University. "Although the globalization of China has been increasingly fast, China still needs to maintain the essence of its traditional culture."

Yang Disheng, secretary of China Confucius Society, thinks China needs to reemphasize traditional culture while also learning from western culture.

"Even in modern times, some basic principles of Confucianism — like faith and credit — are still important," he said.

Prof. Guo said the main purpose of teaching children to recite traditional classics was to help them accumulate basic knowledge, from which they would benefit their entire life.

"Even if children do not fully understand at the moment, it does not matter," he said. "The traditional culture will influence them little by little as times goes on, just like fermentation."

# Harvard Research Halted

By Shan Jinliang/Ma Ning

China has halted 15 controversial Harvard University research projects and launched an in-depth investigation in rural Anhui Province.

"We are working to learn more about the affair, but the investigation only serves our future work and research," said Wang Renwu, China Human Genetic Resource Management Office section chief. "We will not reveal any investigation results to the media."

The "Human Beings Study and Protection Office", a United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) department, has charged 14 projects with "severely violating regulations", according to a *People's Daily* article published last week.

Xu Xiping, a professor with the School of Public Health at Harvard University,

supervised 12 out of the 14 projects.

Xu was the subject of a lengthy report in *The Washington Post* last year focusing on allegations that Chinese farmers had not been given low-cost medical care they were promised in exchange for providing blood samples for Xu's US-funded genetic research.

The report also included allegations that Xu, the principal investigator on the project, and his colleagues did not inform the farmers why they were taking blood — a violation of National Institutes of Health regulations.

Xu's research was supported by millions of dollars in US government grants along with money from Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., and Harvard.

Earlier this year, the Chinese govern-

ment began investigating Xu's projects following an article in *Outlook*, a Chinese magazine, that repeated and expanded on some of the allegations in the *Post* report.

The idea of US capitalists profiting from China's genetic heritage sparked such a fury that foreign genetic research stalled for a year as the Beijing government mulled new regulations. But during this period, Xu said he got permission to take DNA out of China with the help of Anhui officials.

"They didn't listen to Beijing," he told the *Post*.

The China Office Human Genetic Resource Management Office had approved three out of nine projects conducted by Xu, said Wang Jianhui, a vice president of Anhui Medical University in *Beijing Youth Daily*.

See "Research Halted", page 2



## New Olympic Emblem Under Discussion

By Wang Dandan

Beijing will adopt a new emblem for the 2008 Olympics to replace the "China Knot", the symbol used in Beijing's bid for the games, by the end of the year, said an official of the Olympic Image Project Seminar held April 6-7.

The two-day seminar on the design of the emblem attracted over 60 experts and officials from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games.

This project will cover the entire Olympic image, from game sites to the Olympic emblem and mascot design to medals, posters and staff uniforms. The Organizing Committee will open the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Design Conference this July and launch an emblem design contest.

Designers and Olympic experts that attended the meeting agreed that the 2008 Games should have a unique design blending symbols of the Olympics with characteristics of the Chinese capital. "We hope the new logo will embody both China's civilization and the Olympic spirit," said Liu Jingmin, deputy executive president of the committee.

"I hope the committee will keep the current emblem because it is nearly perfect," said Chen Shaohua, a noted designer and one of the 13 official

emblem designers appointed by the committee. Chen added he hopes any new logo will be superior to the one used now.

The original emblem resembles a person practicing "taiji" (Tai Ch'i), traditional Chinese shadow boxing, which symbolizes grace, harmony, and vitality as well as unity, exchange and development. It also resembles the shape of a traditional Chinese artifact known as the "China Knot." The logo was designed by Chen and the painter Han Meilin, who modified the original design by using a calligraphy brush.

Some committee officials expressed regret over parting with the old emblem. "We have to create a new logo that refers to the experience of other Olympic host countries for reasons of intellectual property rights and Olympic market development," said Zhang Ming, spokesperson for the committee. "Without a market, there would be no Olympics," he added.

"I am against distorting English letters or Arabic numerals to form the new emblem," said He Zhenliang, executive member of the Organizing Committee at a meeting on the emblem of the 2008 Olympics. He continued, "such a logo has no cultural or popular resonance."

## Entry-Exit Business Licenses Given to 108 Organizations

By Liu Jiewei / Ivy Zhang

A ceremony was held at the Beijing Public Security Exit-Entry Administration this Wednesday, at which 108 companies were granted licenses to operate entry-exit businesses for Chinese citizens.

From now on, Chinese citizens can go to these licensed intermediate organizations to handle procedures when they intend to go abroad to live, visit relatives or friends, inherit property or conduct non-business activities. According to sources, the regulation is aimed at protecting the legal rights of people going abroad.

Licensed organizations are allowed to provide services ranging from providing information and offering legal consultation to coordinating, making overseas arrangements and providing assistance with visa applications.

The licenses granted are valid for terms of five years and can be renewed upon expiration. The 108 licensed organizations can only do business in Beijing and are not allowed to sub-contract, transfer or lease business. They are also not allowed to commission business to unauthorized organizations or individuals.

Each intermediate organization is

required to deposit two million yuan at a designated bank as operating capital. These funds are designed to cover losses or fines from the infringement of customers' legal rights.

The Beijing Public Security Bureau is in charge of qualification approval as well as regulation, supervision and examination of licensed organizations' performance, while the Beijing Public Security Exit-Entry Administration is responsible for the actual implementation of the regulation, and will conduct regular examination of these organizations and punish those involved in illegal activities.

"With the further implementation of the reform and opening up policy and the improvement of people's living standards, the number of citizens going abroad is increasing consistently," said Zhang Jiawang, Deputy Director of Beijing Public Security Bureau, at the license granting ceremony. Zhang added "238,000 people went abroad for private reasons in 2001 alone."

At the same time, growing numbers of intermediate organizations are emerging to meet the swelling demand, providing assistance for people who want to go abroad for personal reasons, according to Zhang.



Wall of flags signals approach of Beijing Hi-Tech Expo

### BDA to Host Parts of Beijing Hi-Tech Expo

By Yang Xiao

Beijing Economic-Technology Development Area (BDA) announced last Thursday it will host some parts of the annual Beijing Hi-Tech International Expo May 23-28. Many development areas around Beijing have signed agreements to set up exhibitions in BDA, including the newly built 310,000 sq m Jingkai International Auto Square. BDA will also sponsor the "Embrace the World, Challenge the Future" forum during the exhibition.

Photo by Hu Tieshang

### (From Page 1) Research Halted

"Nobody can tell how many (genetic) records Xu has taken," but Xu had admitted he had taken away 16,400 blood samples of only asthma, said *Southern Weekend* on April 5, 2001.

A letter published in *Southern Weekend* on January 24 to Xiong Lei, a Xinhua reporter alleged that 61-year-old Chu Mianzhai, his wife and two daughters took "body examinations" twice in November 1996 and March 1997.

In a letter to Wei Yu, China's deputy education minister, Xu wrote that the Chinese

report, by Xiong Lei, revealed details that should not be given to "foreigners" - intimating she had released state secrets. In the letter, Xu urged Wei to suppress Xiong's report or at least ensure it was not translated into English and published abroad.

Xu wrote another letter to Bai Chunlin, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, urging him to take action against Yang Huanming, a leading Chinese geneticist who had criticized the work in the Post story.

Harvard University reprimanded Xu for these actions. "Dr. Xu agreed to suspend all human subject activities associated with

his studies including enrollment, recruiting and research procedures," said a statement released by the Harvard School of Public Health.

The statement also said, "We have also agreed to institute a corrective action plan for Dr. Xiping Xu and Dr. David Christiani, the two researchers whose work in China was the subject of the investigation, as well as for their staff."

Robin Herman, Public Relations Officer of the Public Health School, told Beijing Youth Daily each participant had volunteered and the benefits were "education", that is, learning medical knowledge.

## National Art Gallery Closing for New Coat of Paint

By Shan Jinliang

The National Museum of Fine Arts will be closed from an unknown date after April 15 to be upgraded, later than the originally set dates of April 1 or 4, said a chief official of the museum who requested anonymity.

Many art fans hope the one-year closure and refurbishing of the museum will return it to its former glory.

The yellow-roofed gallery situated in the center of the city had an excellent reputation both before the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) and after the initiation of the reform and opening up policy for its art exhibitions, including shows of works by Auguste Rodin, Coco Chanel and Salvador Dali, and annual National Fine Arts Exhibitions. The museum hosts around 200 shows each year.

"I was surprised to discover the National Gallery has become so shabby," said Chen Danqing, a professor at the Art School of Tsinghua University, upon his first visit to the museum in ten years since returning from the US in 1992.

The museum has been competing with smaller-scale art galleries, exhibition centers and galleries, including the Hongmen Gallery and Art Warehouse. They have modern exhibition concepts, have mushroomed in Beijing's art market.

The China Millennium Monument, Yanghuang Art Museum, the Exhibition Center of the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the Chinese Museum of Revolution and History have joined in the competition for niche markets in the art field. Rural Song village in Tongzhou District has become a center for the trade of avant-garde art.

"The closure of the national gallery will have an impact on the art market, but not a large one," said Zhang Yu, General Manager of the China Foreign Exhibition Center. "The poor condition of the National Museum prevents the exhibitions of many European masterpieces, such as oil paintings need to be kept at constant temperatures."

A major exhibition of Picasso prints held at the Millennium Monument



Budding artists learn from works by Master Qi Baishi in an exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts

later last year drew hordes of art fans.

Some even called for the construction of a new national gallery. "I'd prefer they redesign the gallery and build a new one than just repair

it," said Ai Xuan, a famous artist, "the function of the National Art Gallery should be reoriented. The current national gallery does not match with its status."

### Beijing International TV Week Magnet to Media Giants

By Shan Jinliang

A press release was held Wednesday to announce that the 2002 Beijing International TV Week, the tenth TV program and trading festival hosted by the city since 1992, will be held May 9-12 at the Beijing Exhibition Center.

The State Administration of Radio, Film and TV and Beijing Municipal Government, sponsor of the event, has accepted applications for participation from over 200 domestic TV stations and production and distribution companies. Media organizations and individuals in the industry from nearly 20 countries will also attend.

### Imported Cosmetics Banned for Fear of Mad Cow Disease

By Wang Ling

Nine batches of cosmetics imported from France, Great Britain, Italy and Japan were confiscated at Beijing Customs by the Beijing Inspection and Quarantine Bureau on Monday.

The cosmetics, a total of 177 items, were identified as being tainted with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) because their quarantine certificates could not be produced.

Major Beijing shopping centers including Scitech Plaza, and Lufthansa Youyi Shopping Center have already started taking some imported cosmetics off their shelves out of fear of special inspections.

The two events are repercussions of a statement issued

"Major international film and TV producers such as Hong Kong's TVB, MTV, Korea's SBS and Austria's Seven Network will attend the event," said Chen Hu, director of the Overseas Center of the Beijing Television Station at Wednesday's press release.

The festival, the largest of its kind in China, is expected to attract more than 3,000 participants. "Applications are still coming in," said Chen.

Management, advertising, editing and broadcasting, and TV documentaries will be the four topics of international symposiums that are key parts of the event.

March 4 by the Ministry of Health and the State General Administration of Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine banning the import and sale of cosmetics from countries and regions affected by mad cow disease.

Gu Qun, an official in charge of cosmetics inspection at the Beijing Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, said that sales of cosmetics possibly tainted by mad cow disease would be banned after April 20 if retailers can't provide official quarantine certificates.

The Beijing Inspection and Quarantine Bureau will work with other municipal departments in the large-scale inspection campaign in the imported cosmetics market.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Sony Ericsson  
to Move in

By Xu Ying

Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications announced plans Tuesday to establish a subsidiary in Beijing, aimed at tapping into China's market of 140 million mobile phone subscribers.

Sony and Ericsson agreed to merge their mobile phone units in April. Both companies are in the midst of integrating their handset operations in the United States.

Setting up the subsidiary is the first step to introducing Sony Ericsson products in China, spokeswoman Utako Higuchi told Associated Press.

She said the venture has yet to be approved by the Chinese authorities, but expects the Beijing office to be up and running by the end of May.

Sony already has a cell phone factory in Beijing, while Ericsson operates manufacturing facilities in Beijing and Nanjing.

According to the report, while Sony Ericsson's Beijing unit will focus on making GSM mobile phones for the Chinese market, it will also be a platform for introducing third-generation handsets when the technology is introduced to China by 2004.

Pulay Music  
Looks for "Ghost  
Street" Effect

By Zhu Lin

Pulay Music, one of the biggest entertainment agencies in Beijing is going through a period of rapid financial growth.

After attending over 1,000 live concerts in both China and the US as a fan, Chen Ge established Pulay Music in 1999. Now the stars his company represents include rock legend Cui Jian and Lo Tayu, one of the most influential Chinese singers.

Pulay's projects under discussion include becoming the mobile phone ring tones agency for manufacturers like Nokia, and expanding their representation to include sports stars and actors, as well as musicians. "Our aim is to become as big as Creative Artist Agency (CAA), one of the biggest entertainment agencies in the world."

Talking about the entertainment business in Beijing, Chen said, "I hope we have at least five competitors in this field, so that we can have a 'Ghost Street Effect'." He explained that when most of the restaurants on a street become hot, the whole street becomes hot. "So if there are many qualified entertainment agents in Beijing, this business will be certain to boom."

Agilent  
Shanghai Opens

By Yang Xiao

Agilent recently announced the opening of Agilent Technologies Shanghai (ATS), a joint venture with the Shanghai Precision and Scientific Instrumentation Company (SPSIC), a company under the Shanghai Electronics Development Holding Group. "ATS marks a strategic investment of Agilent in the Asia Pacific region. It again demonstrates our commitment to the long-term development and continuous investment in China," said Ned Barnholt, President and CEO of Agilent Technologies.

ATS is an expansion of Agilent's former joint venture established in 1995. It will focus on providing high-quality, low-cost chemical separation/analysis, molecular biology, application software and solutions integration, communication and network management products and services to China and worldwide markets.

UFsoft Not So User-Friendly  
Chairman Picks up 33 Million Bonus

By Zhao Yijiang

2001 was a successful year for Beijing UFsoft (SSE: 600588) with a handsome return of 0.7 yuan per share. As the largest independent provider of accounting and business management software in China, UFsoft is often mentioned as a future IT powerhouse. But the company's stock value declined sharply after it announced a generous profit distribution plan early this month. Although "UF" stands for "user-friendly", many investors believe the name fails to match the reality.

UFsoft made its IPO (initial public offering) on April 23 last year with a historic price of 36.68 yuan per share, the highest ever IPO price recorded in China. The profit-earning (P/E) ratio of the IPO was 64.35:1, surpassing the average P/E ratio of 61.76:1 of the A-share market in Shanghai. Its price rocketed more than 150 per cent, from 36.68 yuan to 92 yuan (briefly surpassing the 100 yuan mark on the first day) after the first exchange date.

The stock faced potential risks because of its high share price and P/E ratio from the very beginning. Recently the price fell to less than 50 yuan per share, so investors waited for a distribution of dividends to reduce the risks brought by the high P/E ratio and price. According to a survey by Sina.com, only 11% of investors are satisfied with the current solution. Another reason for the frosty attitude of UFsoft's investors is that highly priced listed companies generally choose to split the shares a year after the IPO to reduce

investors' risk, especially when they consider the shares to be over-valued. But UFsoft's tactic has taken most investors by surprise.

Finally, the investors see very limited benefit from the "generous" plan. Compared to Wang Wenjing, the chairman of board, who holds a 55.2 per cent of the company's listed stocks indirectly, the minority shareholders spent 2 billion yuan (calculated on the basis of 80 yuan per share) for 25% percent of the stock. The distribution plan was executed following the percentage of the stock. So Wang himself gained 33 million yuan by majority shareholder status, while tens of thousands of investors gained only 15 million yuan. The P/E ratio for Wang is two, compared with 133 for small investors.

But a UFsoft insider doesn't share this view. "Reports that Mr. Wang gained 33 million is a misunderstanding of the reality," Zhang Ke, vice president and secretary of the board pointed out. "He is not the shareholder of the listed company, but the shareholder of five companies which initiated the listed one. All the profit of 60 million has been delivered to the public and the founding companies. As for the distribution of money for the initiators, the board of the five companies will determine it, after the plan is ratified by the shareholders' general meeting of the listed company. The managers will not divide the profit directly."

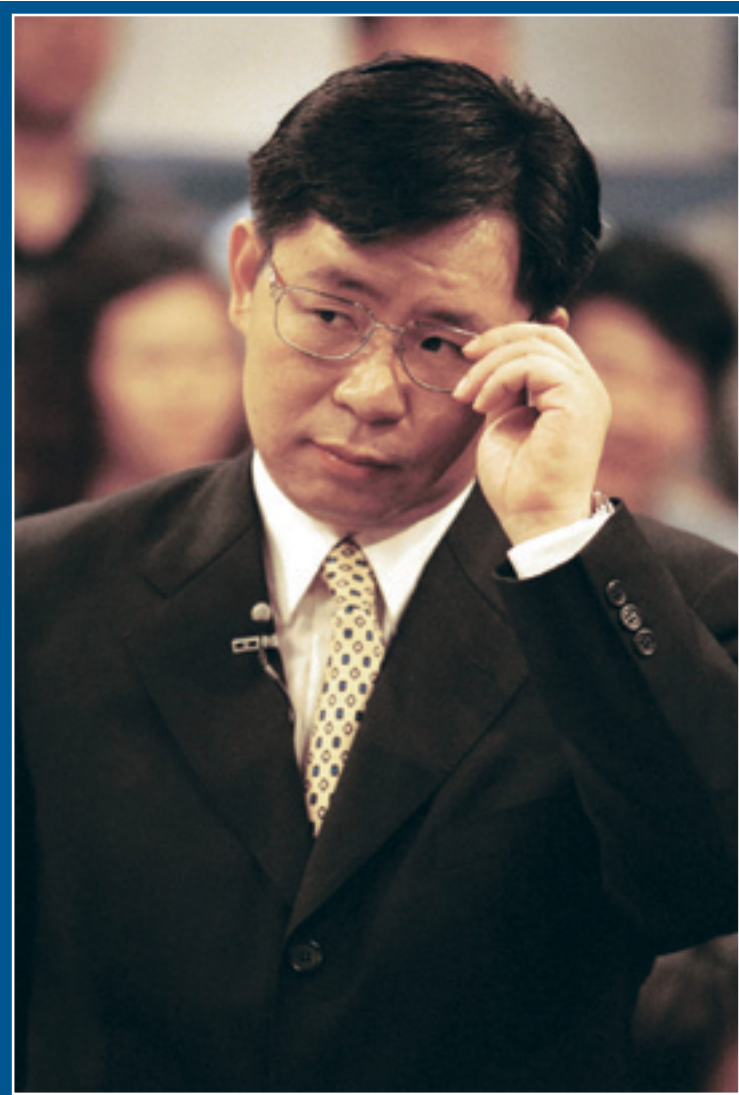
"First of all, what UFsoft did accords with the rules of the

regulatory department. Secondly, the company executes the high proportional profit sharing plan for many years, even before it went public. In addition, according to the financial condition, the cash flow generated by the operation is much higher than the cash that will be distributed. In conclusion, the distribution is healthy, reasonable and legal," says Zhang Ke.

The UFsoft Phenomenon has given rise to much controversy nationwide. "The essential reason is the company couldn't find good opportunities to invest their money. For a growing enterprise, lots of investment is needed at the initial stage. For example, Microsoft generally invests its profits new projects. Because the high P/E ratio of the capital market in China, UFsoft raised more funds than they anticipated. If they couldn't find good opportunities, the plan is a logical choice," says Zhu Wuxiang, a research fellow at Tsinghua University.

The facts support Zhu's analysis. On August 2nd last year, the board of UFsoft decided to purchase 300 million yuan of national debt bonds, spending 37.5% of money raised from the capital market, rather than invest the money in the research and development of financial software and management software, in order to ensure a continued 30 per cent annual growth rate.

However many small investors remain unconvinced. "What UFsoft did is a kind of robbery with legal grounding. The letters 'UF' don't stand for User-Friendly, but Use Friend," a message



Wang Wenjing, one of the richest men in China, reports that he gained 33 million "a misunderstanding of the reality".

Photo by Lu Beifeng

posted on a BBS summed up the views of many.

"If a listed company can continue rapid growth and give high rewards to shareholders, it is worth respecting. If they take it

as a short-term action, it will wreck the company's reputation. Investors won't purchase their stock and vote by abandoning it," Said Yu Xuehong, an analyst with Beijing Securities.

## CONSUMER INDUSTRY

## Glory of the City Bites the Dust

## Competition and Weak Capital Chain Claims Another Supermarket Victim

By Yang Xiao

The domino effect in Beijing's supermarket chain sector has seen another player topple, with the bankruptcy of the "Glory of the City (Chengshi Zhiguang) chain. The owner vanished recently owing 40 million yuan to suppliers. Glory of the City is the fourth supermarket chain in the capital to go under this year. Outside Beijing, more than 16 chain stores have closed their doors.

Chen Shende, manager of a U.S. chain says the "black hole" is sucking in more and more chain stores. This black hole is the result of ferocious competition. In recent years, almost all such chain stores have sought to increase their market share, but most have reported losses in their fiscal reports.

"All of them are launching price wars



Glory of the City discounts its remaining stock. "After everything is sold, we will move out", said one cashier

Photo by Chen Shuyi

in the hope of wiping out their competitors, using such tactics as opening outlets right beside their competitors. The result is, the public have more choice,"

said Wang Wenchuan, a supplier claiming losses in the Glory of the City case.

"Multinational chains such as Carrefour also involve in price wars. Last time I delivered eggs at four yuan per kg that they then sold at three yuan." In the end, it is the player with the most in the bank who can last out the longest. Carrefour has lots of capital, while private chain stores draw short straws.

In China, anyone with 300,000 yuan in their pocket could open a retail store. With that one can secure a bank loan, rent a suitable premises with a promise to pay half a year later, employ store clerks and set up trade arrangements with suppliers. After the store opens, one could demand money from suppliers and goods manufacturers for promotions on each public holiday. On top of those, he can receive

commissions on sales. It seems you could do pretty much everything on credit.

This tactic has been copied, with minor modifications time after time by small and medium sized chain store operators. "Although there are many perceived benefits, there are also hidden dangers," Wang commented. "One must pay careful attention to every step taken, but just to survive, one has to run ahead of time to open more and more stores. The capital chain often proves too weak to support such a burden."

"It is a dangerous game played by gold rushers and cowboys. No game rules but a gun, no mercy, no surrender. You have to either keep fighting or die," says Wang, who lost 30,000 yuan in the Glory of the City case. He predicts that Xiaobaiyang chain store will be next, "It has not repaid any debts for a total four months."

## HOME APPLIANCE

## Cheaper DVD Claim a Sales Gimmick

By Wang Dandan

With negotiations between domestic DVD player manufactures and 6C (Hitachi, Panasonic, JVC, Mitsubishi, Times-Warner and Toshiba DVD Patent Alliance) still underway, it was announced recently that all Chinese manufacturers had cut their prices, with some players falling as much as 50%. However Beijing Today has found that in fact, not all DVD players have decreased in price as promised.

Liu Ruyi, a sales representative at Gome Electronic Center's (Guomei) branch told Beijing Today Tuesday evening that the 50% decrease announcement was a sales promotion by TCL Corporation.

"We have such promotions all the time, according to the different seasons," said Liu. This is not related to the negotiations with 6C. "I think TCL wants to catch attention by decreasing two types of its DVD players at this special time," she added.

According to Wang Chunlin, director of TCL's Beijing office, TCL started the promotion on April 12.

It covers only two types of newly developed DVD players, and a limit has been set for the lower prices.

Shinco spokesperson Fan Wenjian told reporters that Shinco had not decreased prices, and that any such decreases would be conducted by the market, not the manufactures. "There is no sign of price decreases by other manufactures either," he added. The promotion can't affect the prices of DVD players overall, he concluded.

Li Xiaozhong, director of Amoi-sonic, one of the biggest DVD player manufactures in China, said the company had no plans at present to decrease prices.

"Besides, TCL is not a big manufacture in terms of DVD player production and it can't affect the market. There won't be a large decrease in DVD player prices in the first half of the year," he said.

According to Liu, April and May are the peak months for DVD player sales, and they will launch more promotions to boost sales. The announcement is nothing more than a sales gimmick, she reiterated.



To date, few DVD manufacturers have moved to cut price

Photo by Cui Hao



# Municipality Opening Service Industry

By Zhao Hongyi

The development planning commission of Beijing municipality has released a policy document that sets room for further opening the service industry to overseas and private investment to make it more competitive.

The municipality intends to improve its service industry in preparation for the 2008 Olympics and to support the city's drive to become a major player in the international scene. Business sectors opened to wider investment include banking, insurance, employment services, property development, transportation and postal service, logistics and distribution, chain store retailing, telecommunications, foreign trade, tourism, culture, education, sports, accounting and

auditing.

The policy ensures that competitive enterprises will be encouraged to explore overseas markets in the near future.

The opening of the service industry is targeted at overseas investors, as well as institutional and private domestic investment. Forms of investment encouraged in the service industry include independent funding, establishing joint ventures, cooperative ventures or partnerships, share holding and licensing.

Agencies of the municipal government will grant overseas and private domestic investors the same treatment in terms of market access, venture registration, land use application, credit issuing, taxation, IPO financing and import and export, as given to state owned enterprises.

# Beijing Integrated Circuit Industry Park Approved

By Shan Jinliang

Upon the completion of a comprehensive integrated circuit industry chain, Beijing will open an Integrated Circuit Design Park on April 18, according to Beijing vice mayor Liu Haiyan.

The park is being built with government aid to form a service system including electronic design automation and lower the requirements for entering the integrated circuit industry, said Xu Heyi, deputy director of Beijing Economy Commission.

The 25,000 square meter park, situated in the Asian Games Village in Haidian District, was named the "National Integrated Circuit Design Industrialization Base" after passing checks and receiving approval from the

Ministry of Science & Technology in July 2001.

Twelve integrated circuit design companies, including Beijing Hua Hong NEC Electronics, and 30 other companies are expected to establish presences in the park this year.

The capital government launched the plan to build the park in December 2000, aimed at promoting the development of China's integrated circuit products and technologies and emphasizing the leading role of design in the industry.

After a half-year examination by domestic and overseas analysts, the park was approved by the Beijing government, and Beijing State Assets Management Corporation was named the sole investor of the 500 million yuan needed for the park.

# Shell, UN to Assess Impact of Huge Gas Project

By Zhao Hongyi

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Shell China Exploration & Production Co. Ltd. have agreed to assess the social impact of the West-East Pipeline project in order to maximize the economic and social benefits of communities affected by the pipeline.

Under the agreement, UNDP will lead a comprehensive consultation program along the route of the pipeline to identify issues created by the project and concerns raised in the public mind. The findings of the impact assessment will be used to formulate a social investment and development program for the project to be carried out by the partners in the project and relevant government authorities.

"Infrastructure projects are very important for the development of a coun-

try, but the difficulty lies in how to strike the right balance between national and local interests. Ensuring that local communities truly benefit from this project is the challenge ahead," said Kerstin Leitner, UNDP Resident Representative in China.

The pipeline is planned to stretch 4,000 kilometers, passing through eight provinces and autonomous regions to transmit gas from Western China to Shanghai and East. A Shell-led consortium, made up by Shell, OAO Gazprom, OAO Stroytransgaz and Hong Kong & China Gas Company Limited, won the contract for construction of the project and signed the Interim Agreement with PetroChina in December 2001 that set health, safety, environmental and social standards.



# World Cup Stimulates Korean Fever in Beijing

As the 2002 Football World Cup to be held in late May in South Korea and Japan approaches, "Hanliu (Korean fever)" is sweeping Beijing. Travel agencies are offering more flights and mobile phone operators are providing connections to South Korea. Department stores are setting up Korean themed displays and selling Korean fashion, music and specialty foods.

Above: A travel agent offers interested consumers details about a five-day tour to South Korea.

Photo provided by Xinhua

# Car Loans Lure Manufacturers

By Zhao Hongyi

Earlier this month, Dai Xianglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, said China is considering giving the green light to overseas non-banking financial institutions to operate car credit businesses in the domestic market.

The government's repeated claims in this direction are drawing interest from major international car manufacturers, many of which already produce cars in China. Overseas financial institutions operating in China have been lining up to apply for approval to offer car credit services since the start of the year.

Most local banks already provide such services.

Mr. Li, who declined to give his full name, is the section chief for consumer credit issuing at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. He told our reporter that credit for car purchases

is the bank's fastest growing business. This bank issued 790 million yuan of car loans in 1999, increasing to 5.967 billion in 2000 and 9.204 billion in 2001. The total amount of car loans extended by the bank in 2002 is expected to reach 15 billion yuan.

The total sum of credit for car purchases issued by the Agricultural Bank of China reached 7 billion yuan by the end of 2000, increased to 13.4 billion last year and is expected to hit 20 billion this year.

"Private consumption credit accounts for less than 10 percent of the total credits issued by our bank, but over 30 percent of private consumer credit went to car purchases," said Cui Yiping, section chief of private consumption credit of the Agricultural Bank of China.

Li Shuke, president of the financing & consuming section of GM Auto

China, said GM had issued a total of \$160 billion in credit worldwide by the end of 2000.

"Car credit services cover manufacturers, distributors and end users. However, in China, the concept is narrowed to end users only, which means there is great potential in the domestic car financing market," said Li.

Some car manufacturers are establishing financial service agencies to use their own resources to launch credit services. However, they have to obtain approval before starting operation.

Dongfeng Automobile Co., the Chinese mainland's second largest automaker, is cooperating with Taiwan's Yulon Motor Co.Ltd. to launch car purchasing credit for products from their newly-established joint venture on the mainland.

Ford is reportedly in discussion with the Bank of China about launching credit services for its products sold in the country. Volkswagen, which has been greatly successful in China, is believed to be preparing to set up a wholly-owned financial service institution.

Demand for private cars in China is at its highest level ever. Consumers are anxiously awaiting the advent of more available car loans. A survey conducted by the People's Bank of China last November shows over 50% consumers who plan to buy cars will apply for credit if possible. In Shenzhen, over 2.8 billion yuan of credit was extended for private car purchases last year.

# British-Australian Education Exhibition Coming to Beijing

By Zhao Hongyi

For Chinese interested in studying abroad, the "British-Australian Education Exhibition 2002" will provide excellent opportunities to explore options and meet educators and representatives from leading institutions of higher education from the UK and Australia.

The third annual "British-Australian Education Exhibition" will be held in mid-April and attended by 39 British and 48 Australian universities and institutes. The UK part of the exhibition will be held April 13-14 in the Conference Hall of the China World Hotel. The Australian part will be held April 20-21 in the Ball Room of the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel.

While in Beijing, representatives of these universities and institutions will also conduct exchange activities with Chinese universities in the capital on introducing courses and materials, cooperative education and academic communication. Seminars about universities and financial aid opportunities will also be run at the exhibitions.

The organizers, Beijing International Education Exchange Service, the British Council (which operates in China as the Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy), and Austrade, promise to provide comprehensive and accurate information about studying in the UK and Australia.

More information about the exhibition can be found at: [www.educationuk.org.cn](http://www.educationuk.org.cn), and [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au).



Photo by Zhuang Jian

# Fancy a taste of Ugandan coffee?

By Zhao Hongyi

The rich smell of java hung in the air as a café on the second floor of the Beijing International Conference Center, on the north fourth ring road near the Asian Games Village, started selling Ugandan coffee on Monday.

The café, which offers "Crane" brand Ugandan coffee, is run by Beijing Chenao Coffee Company, a joint venture established by Beijing North Star Industrial Group and the Ugandan Coffee Development Authority to promote Ugandan coffee in China.

Chenao told Beijing Today it intends to promote "Crane" brand coffee to cafés, shops, hotels, restaurants and supermarkets nationwide.



Australian Toyota exported its first six Camry sedans to China last week and held a launching ceremony at the Australian Embassy in Beijing

Photo provided by Australian Embassy



Guangzhou Honda launched the Odyssey MPV, the company's second model after its wildly successful Accord sedan

Photo provided by Xinhua



# Walker Wants World Record

By Zeng Peng

A Uygur tightrope walker of a Xinjiang troupe plans to sit on an overhead wire cable without a safety harness above Jinhai Lake in Pinggu County for 22 days.

If he survives his stay from Tuesday, April 16 to May 7, then Abel Wuxur claims he will break the Guinness World Record of 21 days set by Canadian-American, Jay Cockren.

Wuxur says he has already set two Guinness World Records on the high wire: He crossed the Qu Tang Ling Men at the Three Gorges on June 22, 1997 in 13 minutes and 48.79 seconds, breaking the previous record of 53 minutes 10 seconds.

On October 6, 2000, Wuxur claimed a second Guinness World Record for "high-altitude walk-wire with greatest degree of inclination" in 52 minutes, 22 seconds by walking between Fu Rong Peak and Zhu Rong Peak in Mount Heng, Hunan Province.

Wuxur this time will shelter in a 4-square-meter hut built at one end of a 450-meter long wire cable. The shelter is equipped with a TV, cell phone, air conditioning, microwave stove, a custom-made toilet and Internet facilities.

Wuxur will sleep there at night. By day, he plans to perform acrobatics on the cable.

He plans to use his platform to promote environment protection, poverty relief and other issues of public concern. He will communicate with audiences via cell phone and the Internet.

Wuxur on April 8 received phone calls at the newsroom from readers of *Beijing Youth Daily*. He explained he would eat shashlik or crusty pancakes lifted up through pulley.

The wind wouldn't be a problem either, he said, as he had experienced performing in Force 5 winds before. Next up? The Great Wall on September 21, if he succeeds.



# Fake World Cup Trophies Seized

By Feng Yihua

Inspectors seized dozens of unlicensed knockoffs of World Cup 2002 commemorative trophies in a raid on a factory in Shenzhen, the manufacturing city that borders Hong Kong.

Authorities found more than 60 finished trophies, each made of metal and about the size of a man's hand, a Shenzhen Quality Inspection Bureau official told reporters. Fifty-four

half-finished trophies and six tools for production were also seized, according to *Beijing Youth Daily* last week.

The raid followed a complaint from lawyers hired by the Federal International Football Association (FIFA), world soccer's organizing body, which had investigated factories in Shenzhen, Harbin, Wenzhou and Beijing producing World Cup souvenirs.



Photo by Liu Zhijian

## Swords & Ladders

A performer of the Guizhou-based Miao Minority gives a special performance for the Western China Folk Art Festival at the Chinese Nationalities Museum on Saturday.

There will be 13 performances, including the water festival of the Dai Minority from Yunnan Province. The whole festival ends October 31 this year. (Sun Ming)

# Woman Drives into Liangma River

By Sun Ming

A licensed driver plunged her car 10 meters into a city river by accident on Tuesday. "It was just like something out of a movie," witness Li Jianguo told police on the spot.

The driver, a woman said to be in her 50s, had intended to reverse the car from its parking space near the Capital Mansion Building, but instead slipped the vehicle into forward gear, according to the Xinyuanli Police. The sloping lot has no guard rail.

The black Passat plopped into the 3-meter-deep Liangma River at 8 am. The car swirled about in the water, before sinking 10 minutes later. "She looked very calm," witness Huang Fei told *Beijing Daily*. "What she did first was dial her mobile

phone from inside the car."

"The windows appeared to be waterproof. Then the driver opened the window to pass through it."

Huang said the woman had carried her handbag when she swam to shore.

This was her second accident, according to the parking lot authorities. The Passat nearly fell into the same river for the same reason a year ago. A parking lot administrator quoted in *Beijing Youth Daily* last week said the driver was "perhaps" the vice-president of the nearby China Trust Technique Company.

Beijing Dalu Vehicle Rescue Company fished up the Passat two hours later. But the company declined to answer any questions from *Beijing Today*.



Beijing Dalu Vehicle Rescue Company employee Wang Jijun goes about his business

Photo by Qu Liyan



Photo by Cheng Tieliang

# Children Name New Arrivals

By Su Wei

Ten Antarctic penguins are visiting the city to pick up names. The three male king penguins, three female and four male gentoo penguins attracted more than 30,000 Beijingers over the weekend.

The penguins in Room C of the China Science and Technology Museum near Ma Dian had been driven by truck for more than 11 hours from Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World.

Penguin keeper Yu Changzhe said the birds began bawling at the sight of their new home. Today the ten reside on a man-made ice floor in a closed transparent glass freezer at a room temperature of -5 degrees Celsius. Two blowers blast icy winds at the birds safe behind their double glazing.

"The Beijing home is almost the same as the one in Dalian and the penguins are not disturbed by noises outside the freezer," said Yu. "They are completely separate from the outside."

They will leave on Tuesday or perhaps later. When the penguins get back in Dalian,

their names will be selected from suggestions. Each child visitor was invited to supply three names.

"Fei Fei", "Du Du" and "Bei Bei" proved popular, said Xiao Feng, assistant general manager of the Dalian resort.

Qiao Yuehan, 2, suggested "Liao Liao" as she wondered about the penguins' ears. The Chinese character "了" look similar to a question mark and is in the shape of an ear.

The penguins prefer to eat twice a day and the total needed for 10 days is around 200 jins (about 221 pounds), said Yu. Locked refrigerators within the room contain about 600 jin (662 pounds) of squid and Spanish mackerel shipped from Dalian.

Xiao said since his Dalian center imported the 29 penguins from Auckland, New Zealand in June 2000, they have grown, shed feathers and laid eggs.

"We think this is the best opportunity to introduce the penguins to Beijingers," said Xiao. "As the first week of April is called 'Birds Protection Week of Beijing'."

# Doctors Fly to Victim

By Sun Ming

The 14-year-old victim of a horrific sexual attack on her birthday is receiving free medical treatment from two expert surgeons of Beijing Children's Hospital.

Drs. Qiu Xiaohong and Sun Ning flew to Fushun, a Liaoning Province city, on Sunday, where they operated for 13 hours.

Dr. Sun said the victim, using the public pseudonym "Xiao Lan" would need at least three more operations.

"She's the most miserable patient I've seen in 20 years," said Wang Xiuyun, director of the obstetrics and gynecology department of the Second Hospital in Fushun.

The mother "Mrs. Jin" told *Beijing Youth Daily* that Xiao Lan's mood improved after hearing national public sympathy had prompted the surgeons to come from Beijing especially for her case.

"Up to now, the therapy is successful," said Dr. Qiu. Although out of danger, Xiao Lan must carry an artificial bladder and tubes 24 hours a day.

Since the story of Xiao Lan was published, city residents have donated an unknown amount of money towards medical fees. Mrs. Jin paid for the two doctors to come, but it is not known if donations were sufficient to cover the cost.

Thirty meters from her home at 7 pm on March 12, Xiao Lan was assaulted by a 37-year-old man wielding a 1-meter saw.

Knocking her off her bike, the stranger first slapped her face and then began to bite her. Xiao Lan resisted, but the man seriously injured her lower body with the saw.

"I saw a man clutching a girl in the darkness," witness Han Guixing told police. "I cried out 'Who are you?'"

The startled assailant fled the scene. Police investigators removed intimate body parts and a saw from the crime scene, said Wang Hua District Police Station chief Chen Wei.

Suspect Qi Jun was arrested 12 days later. A *Beijing Youth Daily* reporter on April 1 met Qi at the first Detention House in Fushun on April 2.

"I fell deeply sorry toward the girl. She is innocent," said Qi, who alleges he is mentally disturbed. Police said Qi had previously been to prison three times for indecent assault, but had not committed rape.

Fushun Intermediate People's Court chief Wang Lichong said the behind-closed-doors trial would take place next Tuesday. The privacy is to protect minor Xiao Lan's identity.

Judgment would be pronounced the same day, Wang said. He did not rule out a death sentence.

"We haven't conducted a psychiatric analysis on Qi Jun. We don't think he has any psychosis," Wang told *Beijing Youth Daily*.

"Qi Jun has abnormal psychology, but abnormal psychology doesn't mean psychosis and it can't become the excuse for the crime according to law."

# Satellites Run Rings around Ancient Trees

By Su Wei

Satellites have pinpointed 2,929 ancient trees in Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen and Xuanwu districts.

All of the trees are at least 100, some even 1,000 years old. The Global Positioning System (GPS) is accurate to within 1 meter.

The 24 GPS satellites will aid Beijing Garden Bureau to identify any factors hindering the trees' growth within a 3-meter radius. All illegal construction within the area will be monitored and prevented.

The information on each tree: its position, age, height and width will be electronically mapped and stored by the Beijing City Development and Planning Bureau. The location of trees in 12 other districts is also ready to be recorded.



Photo by Xiao Rong

## Foreign Affairs

# Green Grove

By Xiao Rong

Tima Shorokhov, a 4-year-old boy from Belarus, is the youngest.

One of more than 130, he is helping his father Vladimir grow his first tree.

A grove of 500 cypresses and 20 pines has been planted in partnership with the ancient pines of the Jie Tai Temple in Mentougou district.

Named "Foreign Student Grove" by the Foreign Affairs Office of Beijing government, the trees were planted by volunteers from five city universities and foreign embassy officials.

Zhao Shanxi, a Korean student from Renmin University, said she expected her class-

mates to return the same time next year to look after the trees.

"The sandstorm in Beijing is not only Beijing's problem," said Zhao. "It also concerns other parts of the world."

As one of the last lines of defense against the sandstorms attacking Beijing, Mentougou now has a green area of 36.7 percent. The city is expected to plant 2 million trees covering 1,800 hectares this year.

A "Foreign Student Day" is to be launched this May, aimed at promoting cultural activities for foreign students in the capital, according to an official of the Foreign Office.



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New regulations allow people to submit audio or video taped material as evidence in civil hearings.

In the past, such evidence could only be used in court when it was recorded with prior permission of the person being taped.

Li Hua with the cassette tape submitted as evidence to the Haidian People's Court



Photos by Chen Shuyi

## Secretly Taped Conversation Heard in Court

A Beijing woman has filed a lawsuit using a taped phone conversation as evidence

## Legal Overview of the New Regulations

By Ivy Zhang

Judge Wang Zengqin of the Beijing People's High Court spoke to Beijing Today about the new regulations on evidence in civil lawsuits

**Beijing Today: Could you give us a general overview of the new regulations?**

Judge Wang: The regulations promulgated by the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China and implemented on April 1 are the first complete judicial interpretations on video and audio taped evidence in China. They can serve as legal guidance for litigants to present evidence as well as for the court to review and recognize evidence.

**BT: What were the limitations of the old regulations?**

W: The Law on Civil Procedures promulgated in 1991 allowed audio and visual material including cassettes and videotapes to be used as evidence. In 1995, the Supreme Court issued judicial interpretations on the criteria to judge illegal audio and video evidence. Audio and video tapes could not be taken as evidence without prior permission given by the person being taped. Although such regulations had a positive effect to a certain extent, we found they were too rigid.

**BT: What kind of audio and video evidence can now be taken as evidence?**

W: Article 68 in the new regulations addresses the issue of defining the judicial evidence. Cassettes or videotapes can be used as evidence provided that other people's legal rights are not infringed and no legal rules are violated. For instance, the evidence secured by installing listening devices in other people's residence would be regarded as illegal and can't be taken as valid evidence.

**BT: Are there any limitations on the means of securing evidence?**

W: As to the ways a citizen collects the evidence, it's not an issue addressed by the new regulations. During the evidence collection, the bottom line is that others' legal rights cannot be infringed upon and the law cannot be broken.

**BT: In foreign-related cases, are there any issues that expatriates or foreign companies should pay attention to?**

W: In addition to providing translated versions in the lawsuit, evidence supplied from overseas needs to be notarized, which is in accordance with international practice.

By Ivy Zhang

A Beijing woman last week became the first person in the capital to present a cassette tape as evidence in a lawsuit, after new regulations on evidence were implemented in China recently.

Li Hua, 49, a former employee at the Beijing Post and Telecommunication University told Beijing Today that she got to know Pang Yaling in April 1999 through a male acquaintance named Shi Shouren. Pang then operated the BeiHuan Hotpot Restaurant at Erlizhuang, north of the Northern Forth Ring Road.

Pang said she wanted to lease the restaurant, and Li, impressed by the prime location, decided to rent it in partnership with Shi. Li would pay the deposit while Shi would be responsible for operating the business.

On May 10, 1999, Shi drafted a lease agreement stating a 10,000 yuan deposit and 70,000 yuan as annual rental with a term of two years. But, "it was just a draft version and bore no signatures from the three parties," Li claims.

Two days later, Li handed Pang the 10,000 yuan deposit and Pang gave a signed receipt to Li in return. Li says she later gave the receipt to Shi to prepare an official contract in October. "But no contract was ever drawn up," Li said.

On May 9, 2000, "Shi disappeared because he lost 100,000 yuan in his bookstore business and Pang actually took over the business that day", Li said, "when I asked Pang to refund me the deposit, she said she had no money and would pay me whenever she could. I asked her to make it within three months."

On June 20, Li found Shi and asked him to tape his phone conversation with Pang about the de-

posit issue. "Because the receipt is in Shi's hands and I need proof against Pang," Li said.

On a Sunday in July, Shi called Pang from a public phone near Taoranting Park in Xuanwu district. She taped the 10-minute conversation and gave the cassette to Li the same day.

During the conversation, Pang insisted Li had breached the agreement because the two-year lease term was not due and said she would not refund Li's deposit.

With only the cassette as evidence, Li consulted with a law firm in May 2001 and was told as the cassette had been taped without Pang's permission, it could not be taken as evidence.

Li put the case aside until late last month when a friend told her about the new regulations on audio and video evidence to be implemented from April 1, 2002.

She went to the Haidian People's Court on April 2 to sue the BeiHuan restaurant. The court told her she should sue Pang Yaling instead of the restaurant. On April 4, Li submitted the relevant papers along with a copy of the cassette to the court. The case is currently underway.

"I think the cassette I presented should be taken as valid evidence, because I didn't infringe on others' legitimate rights," Li says.

"In the past, I was not sure about winning the case, since the cassette couldn't be taken as evidence. I did wonder then why the cassette, a real reflection of the truth, couldn't be taken as evidence. I thought if changes are made to the law someday, I might have a chance of getting my money back."

"But I didn't expect the changes to come so soon. I'm very happy and confident I will win the lawsuit," Li said.

## Investigating the Investigators

Investigation firms exist and are likely to increase in number

By Chen Huiying/Ivy Zhang

A handsome 32-year-old man, known only as Jia, from the Beijing X-ray Investigation Center, explains the name X-ray as, "We explore the unknown and give you the facts." Jia describes his job as simply "helping people find information by legal means."

**X-ray Investigation**

Four detectives, two cars, one Nikon camera with a telephoto lens and one Sony family video recorder, all these constitute the X-ray Investigation Center.

Last March, Jia and his colleagues obtained a license for "social investigation and consultancy services", but their days with neither a license nor a name trace back to the summer of 1999.

In April 1999, one of Jia's friends needed to investigate one of his

becomes aware of us, but it is they who get afraid and nervous."

However, Jia insists that their investigations stop at the front gate and never intrude on life at home, which, in his view, is the boundary between public and privacy.

Jia tells clients that the photos and tapes collected can at most serve as circumstantial evidence in court. If vital evidence is needed in adultery cases, Jia will instruct the clients to collect such evidence themselves.

**Growth of a "fringe" industry**

One year ago, X-ray had only two or three competitors in Beijing; the current number of investigation companies now exceeds 20. The changes in laws and regulations explain the expansion of the business.

In the early 1990s, a number



Private investigator Jia likes to relax with a pipe between cases.

family members. Unable to find a policeman to do the job, Jia and his friend did it themselves. Then they hit upon the idea of starting up a detective business.

At that time, though they were unable to get a license for X-ray, due to their being "no precedent" for such an application, they were able to advertise in three newspapers, at a monthly cost of 3,000 yuan. "We were the first to take out newspaper ads," says Jia, "once we started doing so, our business boomed."

The ads keep bringing them cases, among which 40% are adultery investigations and the rest are locating debtors and commercial investigations. They charge 3,000-5,000 yuan for an adultery investigation, 1,000-4,000 yuan to locate a debtor and 5,000-20,000 yuan for commercial data collecting.

According to Jia, their fees are average in the business and haven't changed much from the beginning. But with the license, X-ray have to pay tax, which has driven costs up. Jia recalls, "Three years ago, we just worked 10 days a month and earned about 15,000 yuan. Without competition and tax, the business was immensely profitable."

**On the edge of the law**

X-ray's clients include wives and husbands who are anxious to find out whether their spouse is involved in an illicit affair, and small companies trying to track down debtors. "They have all tried, and failed, to resolve the problem by legal methods. Our business is just to help the victims with legal methods."

Although private investigation of personal affairs has been banned since 1993, Jia is still confident about the validity of his profession. "When asked about my identity, I say I am entrusted to investigate the case."

Jia and his colleagues trace their quarries, take photos or videotapes of them in public, and gather personal information such as marriage and occupation using all kinds of circuitous methods. "We avoid meeting our subjects face to face. In very few cases, the subject

of private detective companies emerged in big cities like Shanghai, Nanjing, and Chengdu, until they were banned in 1993.

These businesses soon reappeared however, renamed as "consultancies" and "public survey companies." Since the business remains technically illegal, there is no official administration, and no regulations or standard pricing, let alone a recognized standard of business ethics.

Today, many private detective companies are excited by the possibilities the new regulations raise. Jia, meanwhile remains skeptical, "One day, an illegal private detective will be charged with violation of privacy, which will lead to the breakdown of the whole business." According to Jia, the only solution is to legalize private detectives.

**Investigation is a double-edged sword**

"At present, the private detectives and private investigation firms are illegal in China, Fang Zhiyuan, partner and attorney at Beijing Wisdom Law Firm, said, "no regulations on the means and scope of investigations as well as procedures to go through have been released yet."

Fang thinks that investigations concerning business, debt disputes or seeking the lost person can't be defined illegal as long as the investigators do not infringe others' legal rights.

"But the problem exists among the investigations firms is that some do business beyond the prescribed business scope," Fang said.

"The new regulations possibly promote the development of investigation business in terms of their publicity. But I don't think many more opportunities could be created because not all audio and video material can be recognized by the court."

Looking ahead, Fang thinks investigation business does meet the demands of the market and society. It's a double-edged sword and might hurt or protect others' legal rights. "Our country should regulate their activities and well administrate them instead of prohibiting their existence."





# Make an Investment Now For the Future

By Shi Xinyu

Bright sunshine fills the spacious glass-walled sales office. A young woman in a green-and-yellow-striped sweater sits behind a reception desk near the entrance with a professionally courteous smile on her face. Behind the smile, 23-year-old Jiang Yi, a sales rep for a housing property company, is a little on edge.

The property that Jiang is currently involved in selling has only just been granted all the necessary sales licenses. As no deals can be made until those licenses are issued, Jiang has received not a single cent of commission, the principal source of income for housing sales reps in China, for almost six months.

"A good property item has the same significance for both sales reps and buyers. This time I made an unwise choice and wasted some time," Jiang sighs. "Such things should not happen next time." Since first setting foot in the field of housing property sales in 1998 till now, Jiang says she is still in love with this job, because she is "always facing choices and challenges."

## A frustrating beginning

Before becoming a property sales rep, Jiang was a receptionist at the Great Dragon Hotel for nearly two years after graduating from a vocational school specializing in hotel-service training. She found the unchanging daily routine of check-ins and check-outs desperately tedious. "It was so boring! I always knew what tomorrow would bring," Jiang recalls. "I was longing for a change, but did not know how to go about achieving it."

The opportunity came with a casual visit to a long-lost friend who had been a property sales rep for several years. Jiang fell in love with the job at first sight, through witnessing how her friend went about selling an apartment. "I was certain at once that this was the job I was looking for; challenging and creative," Jiang says with excitement. Leaving her receptionist job as quickly as she could manage, she was employed as a sales representative herself, at her friend's recommendation.

Now Jiang concedes that it was a rather audacious decision. At that time, the 19-year-old with no knowledge of marketing had no idea how much instability the job would bring to her life.

Jiang's first job as a sales rep lasted only two months, after which time she resigned as a failure. In those two months, Jiang hadn't made even a single deal. "I was so nervous in front of clients," says Jiang. "I always suffered from a lack of confidence because I was too young and lacked knowledge and experience."

Once Jiang received a phone call from a Hong Kong businessman who was staying at the Hilton Hotel in Beijing. He said he had seen an advertisement for the property Jiang was selling and was interested in buying several apartments as an investment. After some more detailed introduction, that man decided to visit the project the next day. Jiang was very excited, and did a lot of preparation.

The next morning, she arrived at the Hilton right on time and took the man to the building site. "He looked the same age as my father and I could tell he must be a successful businessman," Jiang recalls. She kept asking herself, "How could such a man want to listen to a teenager's childish analysis?" Trailing along behind, it was all Jiang could do to stutter answers to the man's questions. She was un-

able to take the initiative in the conversation, and finally, the visit proved fruitless.

The monthly income for a housing property sales rep is a combination of a fixed salary of 800 to 1,000 yuan and the sales commission, which is usually around 0.3 per cent of a deal. Before starting out in this field, she thought that even without making any deals, the monthly salary would be enough for her to survive on. "I was so naive," she admits. "No sales rep could happily stand living on the fixed salary, that would be considered a shame and be looked down upon by others."

## Back with confidence

After resigning from the first property-selling company, Jiang tried another one, but still "did not have the sense". At her parents' suggestion, she took a job as a secretary.

"Actually I never gave up the idea of being an outstanding sales rep from the first day I got into this field, but I knew I needed to learn more," Jiang says. During her free time, she read numerous books on marketing and carefully collected information about all the property items on sale in Beijing. Then one day in the summer of 2000, Jiang saw an add for a sales rep job with a well-known real estate company, and she sent them her resume.

After a series of selection interviews, Jiang and some 20 other applicants were chosen to participate in a two-week training course. "It was all

very professional, we had lectures in the mornings then discussions or debates in the afternoons and evenings," says Jiang. "Many of my classmates were already experienced sales people and a few of them were even engineers with Bachelors of Architecture. I really learnt a lot from them." In September of that year, twenty qualified applicants, in-

cluding Jiang, began selling apartments of the new project.

It was very competitive work for the sales reps. Altogether there were about 500 apartments valued at around 1.5 million yuan each on average. At the busiest time, there were nearly sixty sales people working together. Jiang was one of only two involved in the project from start to finish, selling 12 apartments in the space of one year.

## "I never changed my mobile phone number."

In her work, Jiang has to deal with all kinds of people. Unlike the shy, lacking in confidence teenager of a few years ago, she is these days much more self-assured. "The responsibility of a good sales rep should not be limited simply to the process of selling," Jiang says. "My job is to ensure my clients get real value for every cent they spend."

A couple of days earlier, a former client from Taiwan phoned her at eleven at night just after getting off a plane in Beijing to ask her opinion on some real estate investment options. "All my clients trust me," she says with pride. It is not the first time she has been taken as a professional consultant by her clients, and maintains that such trust is more valuable income than the actual commission.

Jiang concedes there are some unscrupulous sales representatives operating in the real estate market, but she insists that these are a minority. "For anyone who wants to take this as a career; credit and faith are very important," she says. "Otherwise your client-base will become smaller and

smaller, and ultimately you will have no way to survive."

A client once asked Jiang whether she changed her mobile phone number every time she finished selling a project. Jiang still cannot help laughing when she repeats those words. "I have never changed my mobile phone number since I started out in this field in 1998. It is now an important link to my client resources, how could I change it?"

## Preparing for an unknown future

A couple of days ago Jiang bought a small apartment on the east Forth Ring Road as a gift to herself for her 23rd birthday. Being able to afford such a birthday present is no ordinary achievement for a person of her age. "It is one of my own investments," Jiang says. "In several years time, when I can afford a bigger apartment, I will rent this one out."

Talking about the future, Jiang says she is not quite sure what it will bring, but she says, "Everything I have done are all investments for the future." At present she is attending a part-time adult education course on Management of Information Sciences. With her work and the lessons that occupy her four weeknights and one weekend afternoon, she has very little free time. "Working until six in the evening then going straight to class, I rarely get to eat supper before eleven," she says.

The time conflict on weekends, always the busiest time for housing sales reps, creates even more headaches. "It is difficult enough to ask for time off work, and impossible to do so every weekend," Jiang points out. "So I have to manage to learn those lessons by myself, and explain as best I can to the teachers about my job, and apologize!"

Regardless of such difficulties, Jiang believes her present hard labor is worthwhile. "To learn new things gives me a sense of security. This is a golden time for the real estate market in Beijing, but no one can guarantee it will last forever. And I also cannot be sure I will love this job forever. So I have to prepare something for the future, whatever it may bring."

- ① Explaining the layout of an apartment to clients in the sales office
- ② Doing a hard-sell at a housing property promotion
- ③ Off to school after another day at the office
- ④ Busy working in her newly purchased apartment

Photos by Zhuang Jian





# Precious Artworks Head South

By Miao Yajie

A collection of China's most precious artworks is leaving the Forbidden City for the first time ever, to be exhibited in Shanghai this November. Twenty-two ancient paintings and calligraphy works from the Forbidden City, along with works from the Museum of Liaoning Province will appear in an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Shanghai Museum.

The Forbidden City, or Palace Museum, the Shanghai Museum and the Liaoning Museum collectively hold the greatest collection of ancient paintings and calligraphy works in China. Altogether 72 pieces works from the Jin to the Yuan dynasties (3rd-14th century) will be on display for over a month. The 40 works from Beijing and Liaoning have never before been shown in the eastern metropolis.

According to the Shanghai Museum, it is "unprecedented in history that so many original ancient paintings and calligraphy works will be shown to the public in one exhibition hall."

Each one of the exhibits is a classic; a priceless piece of Chinese fine art history; and each painter or calligrapher is a master, integral in the development of Chinese painting and calligraphy.

The 22 pieces from the Forbidden City are not only leaving Beijing for the first time, but also the largest collective show of those thousand-year-olds in the past fifty years.

*Model Calligraphy of Boyuan* is in the running script on paper by Wang Xun (350-401) of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420). It was one of Emperor Qianlong's (1736-1795) three favorite calligraphy works kept within the Hall of Mental Cultivation, in a room dedicated to these favorites, 'the Hall of Three Treasures'. The scroll was taken from the Forbidden City by a concubine of the last Qing emperor Puyi in 1924 and fell into the hands of a private collector. In 1950, the scroll was purchased at the instruction of Premier Zhou Enlai, together with another of Qianlong's favorites, *Mid-autumn*. The two have remained in the Palace Museum collection since then.

*Spring Outing*, attributed to the great early Sui Dynasty (581-618) painter, Zhan Ziqian, is representative of early Chinese landscape painting.



Detail of A Night Banquet at Han Xizai's



Detail of Spring Outing

*A Poem to Zhang Haohao* is a calligraphy work in running script on paper by Tang Dynasty poet and calligrapher Du Mu (803-852). It bears an inscription and stamps by Emperor Huizong (1082-1135) of the Northern Song Dynasty, and also shows the imperial mounting style of his time. This scroll also was removed from the Forbidden City by Emperor Puyi.

Other works in the exhibition include the earliest known painting on paper, *The Five Oxen* by Han Huang (723-787).

A historical painting, *Portrait of Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty Meeting the Emissary of Songtsan Gambo* (617-650), *King of the Tubo Kingdom*, by the great Tang painter Yan Liben (?-673). Another important work by Yan, *Portrait of Emperors* is now collected by the Boston Museum of the United States.

The original painting of *A Night Banquet at Han Xizai's* was done by Gu Hongzhong, a Southern Tang Dynasty (937-975) painter. The painting collected by the Palace Museum has been authenticated as a well-done imitation painted between 1163 and 1224.

*The Festival of Pure Brightness on the River* is painted on silk by Zhang Zeduan, an imperial painter in the reign of Emperor Zhao Ji (1100-1125). The 528 cm scroll depicts a bustling and prosperous scene along the banks of the Bian River in the An capital Bianjing (now Kaifeng, Henan).

The three museums all emptied their purses to contribute a most lively and vivid interpretation of how far the Chinese paintings and calligraphy go in the past thousands of years.

Due to the inestimable value of these treasures, the 22 pieces will be carefully examined and packaged, and meticulous security measures will be taken to ensure their safe transportation. Art lovers in Beijing may well feel disappointed that there are no plans to bring the group exhibition to the Forbidden City after the Shanghai exhibition, but to meet face to face with those works all together at least once in one's life means a great deal to many connoisseurs, one can see so much more in an original work than a print. It is well worth the price of a ticket to Shanghai to see this exhibition.



Photos provided by Huachen Auctions

## Emperor's Seals Up for Auction

By Miao Yajie

A pair of imperial seals from the collection of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) will go under the hammer at Huachen's spring auction next Wednesday at the Jingguang Center. The pair are expected to bring between 800,000 and 1 million yuan. It is the first time for seals from the emperor's collection, lost in the 1900 Boxer Movement, to be auction in the Chinese mainland.

One hundred years ago, the eight imperialist powers launched an aggressive war against China. A great many national treasures, including most of the 120 seals from Emperor Kangxi's *Collection of Seals*, were plundered. Only four or five were saved, and the whereabouts of most remain unknown even today.

Last September in a Paris auction, a set of Kangxi's small stamps started bidding at 150,000 francs. It created a sensation when after a fierce competition among buyers from all over the world, the twelve seals sold for 6.9 million francs (approximately 10 million yuan) to a foreign collector.

As chairman and CEO of Huachen Auctions Gan Xuejun pointed out, the pair of signets offered by a European collector are survivors of the 1900 war, as were the twelve Kangxi seals auctioned in Paris. The last time they were seen publicly was in an auction in France at the beginning of last century,

and they have been hidden away in a private collection since then.

Emperor Kangxi used this pair of seals to stamp his paintings and calligraphy works. They are made of fine, smooth Shoushan stone, with a "kui" dragon pattern elaborately engraved in relief on the top. The red legend comprises of four characters meaning "Guard against greed", a phrase chosen by the emperor himself from *The Ana-*

*lects* of Confucius. The white legend bears four characters meaning "Keep hale and hearty in my seventies".

Apart from the two precious seals, the newly established auction house will present over 2,600 items in four categories: Chinese paintings and calligraphy, jade and ceramics, Chinese oil painting and sculpture, and stamps and coins.

Meanwhile China Guardian Auction will also bring down their spring hammer with a cornucopia of treasures. The suspense and excitement of the bidding are sure to make the Jingguang Center and the Kunlun Hotel the hottest places in the capital next week.

**Huachen Auction**  
Preview: 9:00am-6:00pm, 20-22 April  
Auction: 23-24 April  
Location: Ball Room, Jingguang Center  
**China Guardian Auction**  
Preview: 9:00am-6:00pm, 19-21 April  
Auction: 22-23 April  
Location: 2nd floor, Kunlun Hotel

## Big Dock at Summer Palace Under Renovation

By Miao Yajie

The largest and best preserved imperial dock - the Big Dock (Da Chuanwu) at the Summer Palace is undergoing its biggest ever renovation, with a total estimated investment reaching 5 million yuan. The original style will remain intact, according to a spokesperson for the Summer Palace. The Big Dock, also known Houxihe Dock, is located at the west-

ern foot of Longevity Hill. It was first built in 1750 during the reign of Emperor Qianlong for the then largest imperial pleasure boat. The superstructure was burnt in 1860 when the allied British and French army looted Beijing. Emperor Dowager Cixi expanded the dock to its present appearance when she built the Summer Palace in 1888. The reconstruction will be completed by October.



Photo by Fan Jiwen

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# Designs for an Exquisite Life

## Inspiration from the Italian Industrial Design Exhibition

By Zhao Pu

At the exhibition "1945-2000 Design in Italy", visitors can see ingenious Italian designs of the last half-century. A candelabra from 1947, a portable sewing machine from 1957, an alarm clock from 1962, an electric fan from 1973... they all impress with an inspiring idea: good design makes life exquisite and interesting.

The exhibition illustrates the development of Italian design from 1945 till the end of the millennium, highlighting 100 significant objects. Included in the exhibition are many products that are nowadays considered cult objects. All the daily life objects in the exhibition were selected from the Eternal Collection of Italian Design at the Triennale di Milano.

"The exhibition, airing the style of elegance and delicacy and the spirit of reinventing and innovation, shows the essence of Italian design - self-regard, passion for life and consideration of the environment," comments Chen Dongliang, Director of the Beijing Promotion Center of Industrial Design.

"I hope that these items, bursting with romantic essence, will rouse our feelings of love for life," says Wang Jianqi, director of the China Millennium Monument.



Lexikon 80 (1945)



Antropus (1949)

The history of modern Italian design is a marvelous journey through a period of remarkable socio-economic and cultural development. Italy is recognized as a center for avant-garde in the field of contemporary design after World War II, especially since 1950. Renowned Italian writer and critic Umberto Eco once said when talking about Italian design, "If other countries have a kind of designing theory, there must be a series of designing philosophies in Italy."

Since 1951's Triennale di Milano, "production of art" has become a new slogan for Italian designers. The Eternal Collection of Italian Design launched its collection of industrial designs in 1997, highlighting the significant achievements of Italian industrial design since World War II.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the fund committee of the Triennale di Milano.

Where: Art Museum at the China Millennium Monument

When: till April 27, 2002

Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 6852 7108



One of the Exchange series By Cang Xin

## Human Body And Society

By Zhang Huan

Ten young artists are exploring the relationship between the human body and society using photographic and video works in a contemporary art exhibition named Limits of Bodies, underway in the courtyard of Shangrila Community.

"The exhibits basically focus on the lives of people away from mainstream, the people 'on the fringe'," said Liao Bangming, assistant curator and also a participating artist of the exhibition. "The visitors are watching society from their point of view. They are full of desire and anxiety, but they are being controlled and oppressed. We want to show those people as they are."

The exhibition, comprised of eight groups of photographs and two videotapes, bears little in common with traditional art works. The artists are introducing their concepts of life and society, not only things of beauty. Some of the works come under the category of performance art, with the artists taking the spotlight. In one group of performance photographs named Exchange, the artist exchanges his clothes with various people, including a butcher, an inmate of an asylum, a scavenger, and photographs himself standing beside them. "When the two persons stand together after exchanging their clothes, who can tell who is the butcher and who is the artist?" said Liao.

By showing such people, or photographing the artist eyeballing an ox, or even showing their own bodies, they shatter commonly held principles about art and express their concepts more bravely and more freely than traditional artists.

"Such works surely bring about criticism," said Wei Gang, founder of Shangrila Community and ceramics artist, "but our aim is to introduce different art and different ideas."

Where: Beijing Shangrila Culture & Arts Ltd.  
When: March 30-April 20  
Tel: 6436 4785

**Title:** Casablanca Credenza  
**Designer:** Ettore Sottsass  
**When:** 1981

This is one of the Memphis Group's signature pieces. That pool of young creative minds - architects, designers and graphic artists - was founded in Milan in 1981 and gathered around the

charismatic figure of Ettore Sottsass. For almost twenty years, Memphis waged a frontal attack against traditional good taste and design, in an attempt to reintroduce color and decoration. Memphis proposed furniture that was more emotional than functional, more artistic than commercial.

**Title:** Boalum (above)  
**Designer:** Livio Castiglioni, Gianfranco Frattini  
**When:** 1969

In keeping with the modernist principles of the late 1960s, this modular lamp is part of a group of so-called radical designs which translated the theoretical notions of flexibility and transformability into reality, becoming an expression of the utopian and positive impetus towards production optimization.

**Title:** Algol (right)  
**Designer:** Marco Zanuso, Richard Sapper  
**When:** 1964

Algol was the first European perfectly functioning and reliable portable TV set born in the 1960s.



**Title:** Pratone (left)  
**When:** 1966

In appearance, Pratone (seating) is repellent, scoffing at the 'bourgeois' concept of comfort.

**Title:** Papillona (right)  
**Designer:** Afra e Tobia Scarpa  
**When:** 1976

Standing tall and slim on its fine aluminum stem, this floor lamp evokes the lightness of two butterfly wings hovering in space and casting their light.



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## Laugh till You Stop at British Comedy

By Yi He

The Chinese version of *Whose Wife Is It Anyway?* by British actor and playwright Ray Cooney will be staged at the Capital Theatre from tonight until April 22.

The play won the Lawrence Olivier Award for best comedy in 1991 and has attracted rave reviews since its premiere in Britain in 1990.

A member of parliament is meeting his lover for an assignation at an up market hotel, but the romantic evening is interrupted by the discovery of a corpse in the hotel room. "I lug a 'corpse' around every day during rehearsals," laughed Niu Zhenhua, who plays the role of the MP, "It's an excellent way of loosing weight."

The play is directed by Yang Shipeng, who spent ten years as artistic director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

Where: Capital Theatre  
When: April 11 to 22  
Phone: 6525-0123



## Irresistible Again

By Zhu Lin

Popular rock 'n' roll band *Again (Lunhui)*, are currently on a national ten-city college tour. "The students are so enthusiastic!" says singer Wu Tong, "They give us so much encouragement."

Many young people have turned their backs on Chinese rock music in the past few years, in preference for western pop and rock. *Again's* concert tour aims to challenge the students' prejudice, as well as introduce Chinese rock 'n' roll to a wider audience.

When *Again* performed at Beijing Language and Culture University on March 26, student Guo Xitao said after the concert, "I seldom listened to Chi-

nese rock music before. All the albums I buy are western rock and pop music. But after listening to *Again* tonight, I feel they're so good!"

Their concert at Guiyang Industry Institute last Monday was especially successful. Even the security guards were dancing!

The rise and fall of rock 'n' roll in China during this decade is a window on the development of youth culture. In the early 1990s, rock 'n' roll in China hit a high point, thanks largely to the influence of "the father of Chinese rock 'n' roll" Cui Jian. Young people took his lyrics such as "You love me for my having nothing" as a motto in life.

Then in the mid

1990s, with pop music in the ascendance, rock 'n' roll seemed to go into hibernation.

However in recent years, there has been something of a resurrection, with young bands caused a big hit at the National Competition for Rock Bands last September, enjoying rising fortunes.

But problems still remain. The young bands are criticized for being too shallow and lacking musical skills.

Zhou Xiao'ou, the current lead singer of *Zero Degrees (Ling Dian)*, a popular band established in 1989, worries that Chinese bands have suffered a loss of identity. "The early 1990s was the boom time for Chinese rock. But now, Chinese rock 'n' roll is in trouble. The bands can't keep their identity."

Again strike a suitable rock 'n' roll pose

Photo provided by Rao Jia

By Zhu Lin

The legendary founder of the National Ballet of Cuba will visit China this month, accompanying the troupe she established in 1948.

Alicia Alonso is perhaps the last of the great classical ballerinas alive today. The 81-year-old Cuban ballerina set a tradition of romantic and classical excellence while tirelessly encouraging new choreographic creations.

Fifty-four years ago, there was no professional ballet in Cuba. After studying and performing ballet in Europe and America, Alonso returned to Cuba in 1948 to create the country's first professional ballet company, Ballet Alicia Alonso. In 1959, it was re-named The National Ballet of Cuba. She continued to dance into her 70s, despite a degenerative eye disease that has left her almost blind.

## Architect of Cuban Ballet Coming to Beijing



"Generally, ballerinas today can manage only three or four full revolutions when performing a pirouette, but it is common for the ballerinas from the Cuban Ballet to complete seven or eight," says Chinese dancer Dai Ailian.

The National Ballet of Cuba will premiere on April 25, performing *Don Quixote*, the most difficult piece in the company's repertoire.

"If we can set metaphors of food for classical ballets," says Li Yan, a leading Chinese ballerina, "then *Swan Lake* is like chocolate, so exquisite. *The Nutcracker* is like a lollipop; you can taste it and play with it at the same time, but *Don Quixote* is like a spicy Sichuan hot pot."

Where: Beijing Exhibition Concert Hall

When: April 25 to 28

Phone: 8528-2090

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By Li Dan

Once the emperor came here to read Confucian classics to thousands of students at the Beijing Guozijian or the Imperial College. Today, Chinese kids and adults can come to read the writing on the wall at this colorful comic store.

Opened by comic artists for comic and animation enthusiasts, this is a special store, the first of its kind in Chinese mainland.

"We opened this store first out of our own interest, second for profits," says Rong Fei, a young comic artist. "The domestic cartoon market is far less prosperous than that of Japan and South Korea."

Since its opening in April 1999, the store has attracted artists and fans alike with its vision of promoting the domestic market alongside importing the best available foreign talent.

The owner collects cartoon products from Japan, Taiwan and North America, including comic books, albums, CDs, VCDs, cartoon painting materials, postcards, original posters, models and T-shirts.

Popular comic series available include Ava, Spawn and X in Chinese, Japanese and English versions. Most can be only found here in the city. There is also an independent wall in the store used to showcase monthly original scripts from domestic Chinese cartoonists.

"Nowadays, Chinese cartoons are trying to catch up with the international trend," says Rong.

Rong says it is not for lack of an excellent domestic comic tradition, but because of a lack of funding and a poorly functioning market. Hence the store.

"When we were young, we had great comic books like the *Three Kingdoms* and the *Monkey King*. But later Chinese comics didn't really develop, and most lacked imagination and creativity."

"Now we have grown up we find the cartoons beside us are all those simple kinds of stories about a cat or dog, something funny or stupid like that."

During the three years since opening, the store has managed to build interest and support for domestic comic strips.

"And that is an exciting phenomenon," says Rong.

**Add:** Long Yi Original Cartoon, Long Yi Yuan Chuang (龙裔元创), 67 Guozijian Street, Dongcheng District. Bus 104, 108 to Fangjia Hutong, then walk north 50 meters. The store is at the west entrance of Guozijian Street.

**Open:** 9am-7pm. **Tel:** 8402-7166.

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 6590-2524. Email: shopping@ynet.com.

## COMIC STORE RAISES STANDARD



Photo by Zhuang Jian



## Lizards & Loungers

By Salinda

Sit, stand or lie — it's up to you at No.55. Opened in February this year, this dim bar has tables and chairs like other bars, but also comfortable loungers.

Beijing architect Ai Weiwei designed the asymmetrical ceilings and floors and the stereoscopic decor. Lit through cool blue box light, Ai's vision is

filled with wooden boxes, cement boards, dark furniture and glass doors. Large enough to hold about 100 people, this bar brims with mystery, goldfish bowls and cocktails.

Worth mentioning is that No.55, opposite the north gate of Worker's Stadium, is not too easy to find. Across from Havana, walk up the narrow Xing Fu Yi Cun road and on the

right look for an asymmetrical, undecorative door. Through the crooked walkway entrance and listen for the techno or ambient music, maybe with a DJ spinning vinyl.

**Add:** 55 Bar, Chaoyang District, No.55 Xing Fu Yi Cun (幸福一村, opposite to north door of Gong Ti ).

**Open:** 5pm-2am. **Tel:** 6416-2063.

55 Bar - bright fish, dark door and dark furniture



Photos by Li Shuzhuan



Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Fiery Retreat on Barfly Strip

By Li Dan

Red dominates. A wooden table sits in the middle of the room. A royal court lamp hangs from the ceiling.

Sweet smiles beautify the staff. Sumptuous mandarin gowns and evening dresses adorn the walls as works of art. Everything feels in harmony.

The Green Phoenix and Red Dragon is the fashion studio managed by Song Chaoyang and Yang Yang, two young and elegant women who graduated from the Fashion Design Department of Beijing Union University.

Its flaming fire facade beckons strollers near Sanlitun south Bar Street.

Inside, the walls are red. Directly in front, from floor to ceiling stand two magnificent panel pieces taken from a traditional Chinese courtyard home. Between the panels hangs a curtain. The store's name sparkles in exquisite golden thread on the curtain. Soft light bathes the room and the first-time visitor is immersed in a dazzling but tranquil Chinese fashion world.

The smart sales assistant talks freely, but does not push the buyer. She chats in a relaxed, informal manner, like you were an old friend.

Song introduces all the clothes are cut as solid shapes from the cloth to wrap around the customer's body.

"Especially the mandarin gown," she says. "It has to be made to measure the body. One inch out more or less will create extremes that make the whole thing look funny."

Foreigners choose one or two dresses here as souvenirs of China, said Song. Young Chinese women also like to wear Song's clothes when they go abroad. "They like to save them for parties because abroad they don't know where to find cash clothes," says Song.

"Many people say it helps them to discover their true beauty," says Song. "For no matter what your figure, our clothes make them feel more confident in life."

**Add:** Lu Feng Hong Long (绿凤红龙), 17 Dongdaqiao Xiejie (东大桥斜街), Chaoyang District, bus 110, 120 to Gongti. **Open:** 12am-10pm. **Tel:** 6508-5893.

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# Sad South Struggles in Shadows

By Wang Dandan

“Wealthy East, Powerful West and Poor South” (东富西贵南破) goes the popular city ditty. Back in the ’70s and ’80s, people who lived in the east or west were either powerful or wealthy. The rest of the poor slobes were stuck in the south.

That saying has lost little of its poignancy today as most Beijingers would choose the east, west or north over the sad lonely south.

But back in the Zhou Dynasty (1066-256 BC), Guang’anmenwai Dajie was the choice location of the capital city, serving as the center until the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368). Then during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the prime real estate began moving inexorably north.

Historically, the south has hindered development. The area has the worst infrastructure and stands last in line for modernizations. Transportation is poor too. All these factors block development of the south, especially the real estate industry.

Although the south in most people’s minds is mostly associated with decrepitude and worn-out construction, historically it has a great culture such as the Temple of Heaven, Taoranting Park and Fahuasi Temple.

## Transportation development

Buyers eye projects in the east, west and north. The east is the commercial center, containing the Central Business District (CBD). The west has been picked as a high-tech center. The north is now Olympic central.

## What’s in the south?

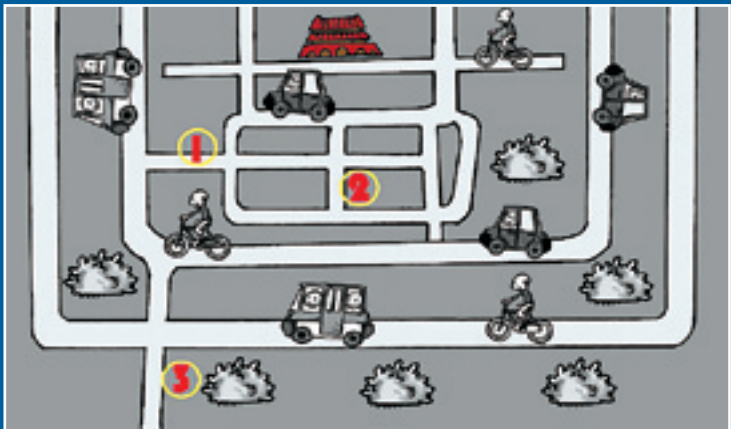
There is nothing much worth reporting, but the government has begun transportation construction: the South Fourth Ring Road, the Jingtong Expressway, Guang’anmen Dajie, extension of Chongwenmen Dajie, Caishikouan Dajie and the No. 5 subway line.

“The reconstruction of Guang’anmen Dajie weighs more for real estate development than the transportation,” says Zhou Zhengyu, a researcher at the China Construction and Design Institute. “Guang’anmen Dajie links



The Spring Housing Exhibition was held from April 4 - 7 in the International Trade Center exhibition hall. Reporter from Beijing Today went to the spot and found some information for our dear readers.

Photo by Li Shuzhuan



## South Beijing

1. Guang'anmen Dajie 广安门大街
2. Caishikou Dajie 菜市口大街
3. Jingtong Expressway 京通高速公路

with the Central Business District via the East Second Ring Road,” says Zhou. “This makes it the CBD backyard and attracts younger buyers.”

Projects on the South Fourth Ring Road are driving the development of the real estate industry in the area as prices now touch 4,000 yuan per square meter from 2,000 yuan in 1998.

Along the Jingtong Expressway, projects such as the Xinghua Garden, Jinhui Garden and Taizhong Garden have all increased 1,000 yuan from their original price in 1998.

## Infrastructure

The city has spent 1.8 billion yuan on water, electric, heating system and gas line construction for Caishikou Dajie. Infrastructure work has also started along the South Fourth Ring Road. Commercial areas near Caishikou Dajie include Qianmen Dajie, Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Zhushikou Dajie, and the Mixiyuan and Lizelu areas.

## Environment

Beijing Environment Protection Bureau officials cite improvements in the living quality in the south. The city will invest 4 billion yuan over the next five years on addressing the water pollution problem in Liangshuihe River. Beijing will also begin to plant trees in the south.

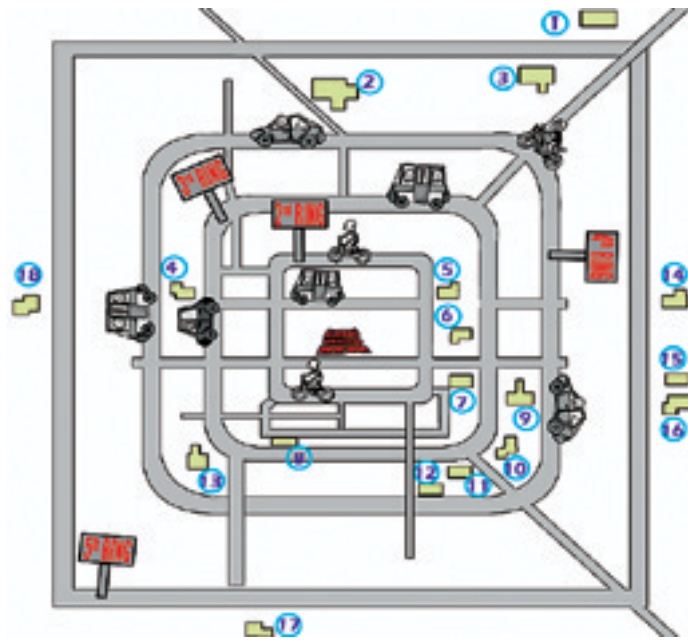
## Price savings

Investment in the east and north of the city creates inevitable spin-offs for the real estate industry in the south, with its more plentiful space and lower-priced accommodation.

A smart developer can develop high-quality apartments in the south for a much lower price. Zhujiang Garden, for example, has seen good sales recently. The developer provides good apartment shape and decoration at 5,000 yuan per square meter.

The buyers who invest in the south today may have the last laugh tomorrow as the city’s real estate prices elsewhere in the city accelerate into astronomical figures.

## Real Estate Round-up



# East is Rising

By Wang Dandan

If we divide the new apartments for last month by area, most projects have arisen in the east of the city at different price levels. The strongest area is Dongzhimen, where the well-designed, well-decorated Dongfang Yinzuo and Shiguan New Town compete for customers.

Kaiyang Garden, Dingxiu Garden and Huifeng Garden, all economy apartments, enjoyed good sales in March.

Jiahe Town in the south sold apartments at 4,000 yuan per square meter. Although not perfect, reconstruction of the south and future improvements of the environment seem likely to boost its commercial value.

Jingtong Expressway has become another focus for apartment buyers recently as Zhujiang Green Garden and Jingmao International Apartments opened for sale in March.

**Zhongchen Mansion 中辰大厦 (3)**  
**Location:** Wangjing area  
**Price:** 8,000 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** office  
**Tel:** 6768-2934

**Shiguan New Town 使馆新城 (5)**  
**Location:** 12 Jia, Xinzhongjie, Dongcheng District  
**Price:** 9,200 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** luxury apartment  
**Tel:** 6417-6888

**Xincheng Guojin 新城国际 (6)**  
**Location:** 6 Guandongdian, Chaowai Dajie  
**Price:** 13,000 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** foreign apartment  
**Tel:** 6591-2345

**Jiahe Town 嘉和人家 (11)**  
**Location:** 43 Weizikang, Fengtai District  
**Price:** 4,000 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** economy apartment  
**Tel:** 6760-9900

**Jingmao International Apartment 京贸国际公寓 (16)**  
**Location:** Baliqiao, Tongzhou District  
**Price:** 4,680 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** foreign apartment  
**Tel:** 6576-1111

**Zhujiang Green Garden 珠江绿洲 (15)**  
**Location:** Gaobeidian, Jingtong Expressway  
**Price:** 5,000 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** luxury apartment  
**Tel:** 6573-8081

**Wanfang Garden 万方苑 (4)**  
**Location:** Cuiwei Zhongli, Wanshou Road, Haidian District  
**Price:** 6,800 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 8801-8005

**Jinshiji Garden 金世纪嘉园 (7)**  
**Location:** Guangqumen Qiao, Chaoyang District  
**Price:** 6,600 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 8777-6333

**Hefeng Garden 和枫雅居 (18)**  
**Location:** Bajiao Xijie, Shijingshan District  
**Price:** 3,680 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 8893-3995

**Bailu Garden 白露雅园 (1)**  
**Location:** Houshayuxincheng, Shunyi District  
**Price:** 2,800 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 8048-3775

**Anzhidinglan Garden 岸芷汀兰 (西路苑二期) (14)**  
**Location:** Beiguanhuandao, Tongzhou District  
**Price:** 1,950 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 6588-1596

**Dingxiu Garden 顶秀欣园 (12)**  
**Location:** Songjiazhuang Road, Fengtai District  
**Price:** 3,690 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** economy apartment  
**Tel:** 8768-1115

**Aolin Garden 奥林匹克花园 (三期) (2)**  
**Location:** Lincuxili, Chaoyang District  
**Price:** 5,300 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 6485-4566

**Lucheng Xingzhou Garden 绿城星洲花园 (17)**  
**Location:** Nanxiaojie, Jiugong Town, Daxing District  
**Price:** 2,700 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 6799-9680

**Huifeng Garden 汇丰家园 (13)**  
**Location:** Wanliuqiao, South Third Ring Road  
**Price:** 3,860 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** economy apartment  
**Tel:** 6378-8763

**Jingang Apartment 金港国际 (9)**  
**Location:** Xidawang Road, Chaoyang District  
**Price:** 6,400 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 8777-5888

**Kaiyang Garden 开阳新筑 (8)**  
**Location:** You'anmen Qiao  
**Price:** 4,150 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** economy apartment  
**Tel:** 6801-6913

**Meijing Apartment 美景东方 (10)**  
**Location:** Huawei Qiao, East Third Ring Road  
**Price:** 4,900 yuan per square meter  
**Type:** apartment  
**Tel:** 8731-8608

# Paint Cracks Defeat Apartment Owner

By Wang Dandan

Lee bought an apartment in December 2001 and moved in a week later. Several weeks after he moved in, Lee found cracks on the bedroom and kitchen walls. In some places, the entire skin of the wall fell down.

Lee went to the developer. Upon examination, the developer told Lee the cracks were caused by the apartment’s dry weather and poor humidity.

It was normal to have such cracks, he said, and they would disappear with good maintenance. The developer fixed the cracks and suggested Lee invest in an air humidifier.

## Cracks stay

After the repairs, Lee bought a humidifier. He turned it on every day. Two weeks later, new cracks appeared on the wall. Lee felt cheated by the developer. He suspected the construction quality of the building. He decided to reject the apartment.

But the developer insisted the cracks were not caused by construction quality and the problem could be solved by good maintenance. The developer refused Lee’s request to abandon the apartment.

Lee sued the developer, seeking to reject the apartment and get his money back. The court designated a legal agency check the apartment construction quality. The agency found the overall quality acceptable. The court refused dropped Lee’s case.

## Lawyer’s point of view

Although the “Rules on Real Estate Management” regulate the developer should be responsible for construction quality, they don’t

say an apartment can be rejected if there are construction quality problems.

Only when the building is completely disqualified after examination by professional technicians can the owner reject the apartment. The developer is responsible for the upkeep of quality, rather than repayment, according to the rules.

As for Lee, the building has no structural problems at all, only cracks which can be fixed. Thus Lee cannot reject the apartment on account of a few cracks.

## Lawyer’s suggestion

The owner should at the very beginning sign a clause in the contract with the developer that says if any quality problems still exist after three or four instances of repair work then the owner can reject the apartment and seek compensation.

With this idea written into the contract, the owner gain leverage for a lawsuit.

# Areas Compete for Office Space

By Wang Dandan

The office buildings in the city come in many different guises: Zhongguancun, the Central Business District, Financial Street, Jianguomen and the Asian Games Village.

Offices concentrate in two key areas: the 275,000 square meters of Zhongguancun and the 297,000 square meters of the Central Business District (CBD).

But whether considering renting, buying or developing an office complex, it is important to examine the character and style of the two competing areas.

The key difference between the two: the business district mostly rents out offices, the high-tech village area sells them.

Most customers that come to the business district area are foreign companies, who would rather rent than buy. The CBD luxury office market declined in 2001, switching towards renting rather than selling. CBD developers see more profits in renting out offices.

Zhongguancun developers look



to sell. Speculators and mostly Chinese companies seek to buy up office space in the area, making the sales market is stronger than in the Central Business District. These investors drive office development in the area.

Office rent is steadier than in the Central Business District. That is to say, it is more profitable investing in Zhongguancun than in the District. The average rent in Zhongguancun is US \$27-28 per square meter per month, while CBD rent varies US\$15-60 per square meter per month. From the rental point of view, investors seek steady profits in Zhongguancun.

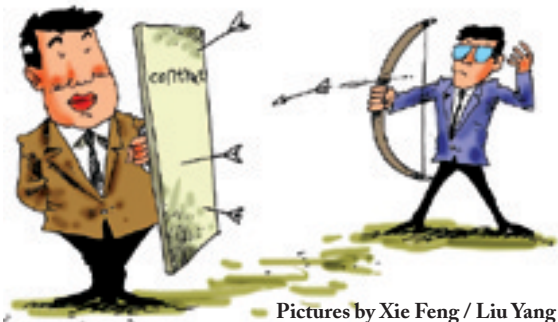
# What can’t be mortgaged?

By Wang Dandan

Dear editor:

My friend needs money very urgently and would like to mortgage his apartment to me for currency. Are there any regulations on mortgaged houses?

Lisa



Pictures by Xie Feng / Liu Yang

Dear Lisa:

According to the “Mortgage Regulations”, any houses with a legal certificate can be mortgaged. But this is a general point. For more detailed information, the following properties cannot be mortgaged or temporarily mortgaged:

1. schools, hospitals, governmental properties, social welfare institution properties, temples or any religious properties
2. military properties
3. properties of undecided or uncertain property rights
4. properties restricted from mortgage by a court
5. shared properties without the signatures of all the owners
6. land without housing in the countryside
7. already mortgaged properties without approval from its first owner
8. self-constructed properties without legal permission from the government

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## Trips



## Qufu and Tai'an Trip

Qufu and Tai'an are both in Shandong province. Qufu is the birthplace of Confucius and Tai Shan is eastern China's most sacred mountain with 6,293 steps.

**When:** April 14. **Plan:** Leaving by bus for Qufu on April 14. On Saturday morning, the Confucius Forest and the afternoon go to Tai'an and stay in hotel. Climb Tai Shan at night to see sunrise. On April 21, bus back to Beijing. **Fee:** 800 yuan per person (all transport, entrance fees, three meals and overnight stay). **Web:** www.yphh.com. **How to make reservations:** E-mail name and mobile phone number to: piet@yphh.com



Inner Mongolia

## Chinese Study Trip to Inner Mongolia - Learn Chinese through a Summer Adventure

The trip is organized for adults and children over 16 years of age. It includes six hours of language study per weekday, an opportunity to practice Chinese with local people during evenings involving games, movies, weekend cultural visits to places of interest such as the Genghis Khan Tomb, Rustling Sand Slope, grassland trip and horse riding.

**Accommodation:** Two people share a room in a local hotel. Plus two days with local Chinese families (optional). **Food:** mostly Chinese. **Transportation:** round trip by train, local trips by bus. **Pick up:** in front of Lido Starbucks. **When:** June 22-July 7. **Cost:** US\$620. **Registration deadline:** June 1. **Tel:** 6538-6008, 1370 1008739 (Rui Min). **E-mail:** ruiminzhao@yahoo.com.cn

## Hiking

## The Triangle Hike

**When:** April 13. **Where:** Changping County, north of Beijing.

Start from a village called "Huaguoshan" (flower and fruits mountain). The country trail takes walkers to Baihe village. Up the hill for half an hour then pass a giant pine tree. Down the hill to a river that leads to Jiuduhe village.

**Pick up:** 8:30am at the Lido outside Starbucks, 9am at the Capital Paradise main gate. **Return:** 4-5pm. **Fee:** 150 yuan per adult, 100 yuan per child under 12. **How to join:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk or call Huilin at 1370 1003694 (leave phone number)

## Weather

**Friday April 12** Clear to cloudy  
Max: 18C. Min: 8C.

**Saturday April 13** Cloudy to overcast, light rain  
Max: 21C. Min: 8C.

**Sunday April 14** Cloudy to clear  
Max: 20C. Min: 5C.

**Monday April 15** Clear to overcast, rain  
Max: 22C. Min: 17C.

**Tuesday April 16** Clear to cloudy, high winds  
Max: 23C. Min: 5C.

**Wednesday April 17** Clear  
Max: 20C. Min: 6C.

**Thursday April 18** Clear to cloudy  
Max: 21C. Min: 6C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo @ ynet.com or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

## Concerts

## Piano Recital

British pianist Helen Vickery studied music at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and she continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Music.

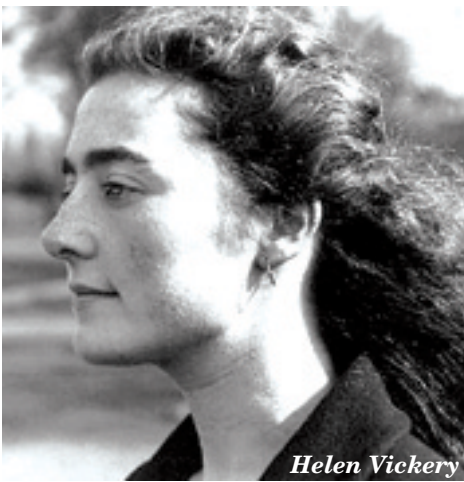
**Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** April 13, 2:30pm. **Admission:** 10-30 yuan. **Tel:** 6848-5462. **Concerts at the Forbidden City Concert Hall**

Piano Recital with instruction in Chinese, Beijing Gaoqiao Culture and Arts Center. **When:** April 13, 2pm. **Admission:** 10-60 yuan.

Best of Chinese and Western Songs,



Symphony concert



Helen Vickery

by Beijing University Student Chorus. **When:** April 14, 2pm. **Admission:** 10-60 yuan.

Foreign Classical Hits in Chorus, by Beijing Concert Hall Festival Chorus. **When:** April 18, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-200 yuan.

Symphony Concert, by China Philharmonic Orchestra. **When:** April 19, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-220 yuan.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

## Exhibitions



Mirage Series

## Mirage - Zhou Jirong's Solo Exhibition

His Mirage series depicts urban scenes of a different order of complex connotations. The city in his works seems to be at dusk, shrouded in a pall of gloomy twilight.

**Where:** Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen. **When:** till May 5, 10am-5pm. (Tue.-Sun.) **Admission:** free.

**Tel:** 6525-1005.

## Horse Painting by Cao Li

Sixty sketches and 50 oil paintings by Cao Li, whose works feature horses and horse-related subjects.

**Where:** Beijing International Art Palace Art Gallery, 48 Wangfujing Dajie. **When:** April 18-23, 9am-6pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6513-3388 ext. 1207/8.

## Outer &amp; Inner

German artist H. F. Plahl and Chinese artist Sun Guangyi. Plahl's works show his feeling for cultures and customs traveling through China, while Sun explores the inner spiritual world.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, 38A Fangcaodi Beijie, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 12-24, 9:30am-6pm. **Tel:** 6507-4062 or 1360 1038025. **Email:** qingallery@yahoo.com

**Oil Paintings from Hubei** Because of its bright skies, Hubei has always been an energetic region for art. Thirty oil paintings from a dozen of artists will be on show, including Wu Guoquan's artworks, Hongfu's Faces series (awarded in the 98 Oil Painting Exhibition of Young Artists), Xu Wentao's works, and Lin'ai. Also works from artists born in the 70s.

**Where:** Soka Art Center, north end of Xiushui Dongjie, Chaoyang District, 100 meters behind British Embassy. **When:** till April 28, 10am-9pm. (Closed on Mondays). **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6586-0344.



Painting by H. F. Plahl



Painting by Zhang Jie

## Activities

## "The Third Space" Art Competition

In the 2nd Annual Spencer Grey Tianjin Arts Festival, participants should create a computer-generated design of their interpretation of "The Third Space". The submitted artwork will be judged by a panel of advertising agency directors and art instructors. Ten finalists will be selected out of the entire submission.

**Accuracy:** not less than 300 dpi. **Size:** not less than 210x285 mm. Please save on disk. Open to Beijing and Tianjin residents. **Deadline:** April 30. **Award ceremony date:** June 8. **Post address:** Spencer Grey Strategic, 19A, CITIC Building, 19 Jianguomenwai Dajie. **Post code:** 100004. **Tel:** 8526-3532.

## 2002 Italian Ball

Italian food, wine and music. **Where:** Kempinski Hotel Ballroom, east of Lufthansa Shopping City. **When:** April

20, 7pm. **Admission:** 600 yuan. **Tel:** 6597-3025 (Cesare Lu).

## WAB Wine Fair 2002

Theme: Pop Those Corks -- Fun in a Bottle! **Where:** Atrium Dining Court, Western Academy of Beijing. **When:** April 13, 3-6pm. **Tel:** 1380 1328640. **E-Mail:** info@bestsolutionsintl.com or glen.wheatley@bestsolutionsintl.com

**Hideout** Hip-Hop, R&B, breakbeats and live MCs. **Where:** Club Vogue. **When:** Thursdays. **Tel:** 6416-5316. **Xielu**

Broken beats, fluid rhythms, tribal jazz, nomadic funk, twilight moods and world grooves from an eclectic palette of sound from 9pm.

**Where:** Bar 55, 55 Xingfuyicun, Chaoyang District, opposite the north gate of Gongti. **When:** every first and third Saturday of the month. **Tel:** 6416-2063, 130 1 1886112. **Email:** lzh@msgp.org.

## Sports

## English Football League Climaxes

The ClubFootball Bar is Beijing's best football bar and restaurant. Big screen World Cup qualifiers, English Premiership, UEFA Champions League to Spanish Primera -- all on big screen with an international menu.

April 13, Saturday, 9:55pm, English Premiership match; 00:35am, Sunderland vs Liverpool. All Live English Premiership.

**Add:** Club Football Bar, No. 10 Taiping-zhuang, near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6415-0988/6416-7786.

## Beijing Hash House Harriers - Drink- ing Club with Running Problem

**Date:** April 13, 14. **Hares:** Ray Wang. **Venues:** IWNC Great Hash. **Plan:** Meet at the Mexican Wave on April 13. **Fee:** 180 yuan Saturday departure, 150 yuan Sunday departure. **How to join:** E-mail RDRhead@uop.com

## Cricket

**Where:** meet at 3pm at the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel and play at a Pakistan school. **When:** April 13. **Contact:** Ali Kazmi 1367 1069342.

## Horseback Riding

## Beijing Green Equestrian Club

**Add:** north bank of Wenyu River, 1km east from Lijing Garden Villa, Jichangfulu, Chaoyang District. **Price:** 180 yuan per hour. **Tel:** 6457-7166, 6588-1508.

## Beijing Star Equestrian Training Center

**Add:** Beimaquanying Cun, Sunhezhen, Chaoyang District. **Price:** 160-210 yuan per hour. **Tel:** 6438-4946.

## Movies

## Spanish Movies

To commemorate the death of Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes and Spanish Books Day, and to commemorate Camilo Jose Cela, Spanish ambassador Eugenio Bregolat will go to Beijing University to lay flowers at the statue of Cervantes. Also two movies, *La Colmena*, *Viaje a La Alcarria* will be screened at Beijing University. **Tel:** 6532-0782 ext. 19.



Luo Haiqiong

## Hearts Touched by Music (Yi Qu Rou Qing)

Directed by Li Ziyu, starring Luo Haiqiong, Han Xiao, Mao Huafeng, 2002, 100 minutes. A poignant portrayal of innocence and first love. Three twenty something students are partners in modern dance troupe. The two women are roommates and best friends. One of them is the girlfriend of their dance partner until she falls for an artist she met in the city. The four young people are buffeted by one incident after another until their inner compasses point them in a direction that leads to deeper love.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movies, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 19, 8pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461-5318/9.

## E La Nave Va (And the Ship Sails on)

Directed by Federico Fellini, 1983. Language: Italian with English subtitles. In July 1914, a luxury liner leaves Italy with the ashes of the opera singer Edmea Tetua. The boat is filled with her friends,



E La Nave Va

opera singers, actors and exotic characters. Life is sweet in the first days, but on the third day the captain has to rescue Serbian refugees from the sea. The refugees who had escaped the first tremors of WWI meet a world in mourning. Fellini's journey through a world populated by ghosts.

**Where:** Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun, Dong'erjie. **When:** April 18, 7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532-2187.

## Spanish Movie: Viridiana

Directed by Luis Bunuel, starring Francisco Rabal, Fernando Rey and Jose Calvo.

**Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee House, The Loft, Firenze. **When:** April 13, 7pm (Coffee House), April 14, 2pm (Firenze), 7pm (The Loft). **Tel:** 6279-1280, 6506-5592, 8562-2308.



Viridiana

## Performances



## Return to the Forbidden Planet

Science fiction rock and roll musical comedy based on Shakespeare's "The Tempest". Performed by Beijing BISS International School students (grades 7 to 12). Music is live.

**Where:** Beijing Qiseguang Children's Theater, A14, Ju'er Hutong, Dongcheng District. **When:** April 24, 25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 60 yuan adult, 40 yuan student. **Tel:** 6443-3151/2 (Jane).

## Peking Opera

Qin Xianglian.

**When:** April 13, 2:30pm. **Admission:** 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan box.

*Ba Wang Bie Ji, Dao Yu Ma*, by Beijing Fenglei Opera Troupe.

**When:** April 12-19, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-380 yuan. **Tel:** 6351-8284.

## "A Celebration of Broadway"

An evening of Popular & Broadway tunes performed by the Beijing International Choir.

**Where:** Beijing American Club, 29F, China Resources Building. **When:** April 12-13, 7pm. **Admission:** 120 yuan includes performance, hors d'oeuvres and one drink (beer, wine or soft drink). Space is limited to 120 people. **E-Mail:** beijingchoir@gmx.net or phone 1391 0078086.

## Puppet Play: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

**Where:** Puppet Theater, 1A Anhuaxili, Beisanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 13, 10:30am. **Tel:** 6425-4798.

## Ballet: Er quan ying yue

**Where:** Beizhan Theater (Beijing Exhibition Center Theater), 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie.

**When:** April 12, 7pm. **Tel:** 6835-1383.

## Si Maqian - Historical Opera

By Shaanxi Song & Dance House.

**Where:** Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiweilu, Xuanwu District. **When:** April 22-24, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-280 yuan. **Tel:** 6303-0300.



Opera Si Maqian

## Dining Out

## Hyatt &amp; Vogue Join Californian Groove

The Grand Spring Mood starts on Apr 20. Grand Hyatt offers a buffet dinner with free flow of California wines. Then continue on a shuttle bus to Club Vogue, where California DJ

Mark Lewis will groove your night into dawn.

**Where:** Grand Cafe at Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1 East Chang'an Dajie. **When:** April 20, cafe till 11pm, Vogue till late. **Price:** reservation 250 yuan before Apr 20, 288 on Apr 20. **Tel:** 8518-1234.



Twin temples on a Fangshan mountainside preserve sacred Buddhist texts

# Time for Tablets

By Jiang Zhong

The destroyed temples, burnt sacred scriptures and killed thousands of monks. As China's imperial power waned, Emperor Wu Di (572-578) of the North Zhou Dynasty (557-581) blamed foreign influences, with Buddhism the No. 1 enemy.

Vibrant intellectual branches of Buddhism disappeared almost overnight and ancient texts were lost forever. The lesson of their suffering was not lost on Buddhists of that time, who sought to create a permanent record that could survive the vicious vicissitudes of Chinese history and be hidden safe from future hooligans.

Twin temples bear witness to this process: Lei Yin Dong (雷音洞), built in the Xiao Xi Tian (小西天) mountainside in 605, and later Yun Ju Temple (云居寺), built in 669 at the foot of the mountain.

Today, Yun Ju Temple in southwest Fangshan district houses 10,082 stone scripture carvings. Nine caves on the mountainside around Lei Yin Dong have another 4,196. Monk Jingwan and companions began to carve the first scriptures on stone slabs in the Sui Dynasty.

They erected the temple in Xiao Xi Tian mountainside and began carving.

Jingwan and descendants kept on carving their tablets for 1,039 years, through the Sui, Tang, Liao, Jin, Yuan and Ming dynasties. The 10,082 Yun Ju Temple tablets bear the Great Tibetan Buddhist scripture.

After the scriptures were excavated in 1957, they quickly began to decompose in the Beijing open air. They were returned underground for protection in 1999.

Through air-proof windows, tourists can see, not touch the tablets at the restored temple, one of modern Beijing city's more conscientious attempts at cultural preservation.

## Discovery

Only the north pagoda stands today. A Japanese bomber felled the south pagoda in 1942. The Japanese were aiming at the PLA inside.

Nobody in '57 knew exactly where the Yun Ju Temple tablets were stored, explains temple administrator Yun Guirong. The local authorities were removing relics from the south pagoda in '57 when they happened upon an intriguing inscription on a stone tablet.

"The inscription revealed stone tablets were buried 10 meters south of the pagoda," said Yun.

But after the tablets were excavated, they were abandoned during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). By the '90s, culture had begun to come back into fashion and the government built an airtight complex two meters underground to store them.

## Pagodas a-gogo

Leaving the tablets of yesterday behind and stepping out into the morning sunshine, the courtyard housing the north pagoda supplies an ideal place for relaxation. Seated here, an educated reader might notice something rather strange about the pagodas at this temple.

A Liao Dynasty (916-1125) pagoda is guarded by four Tang Dynasty (618-907) pagodas. Built in 712, the four Tang guardian pagodas, the oldest in Beijing, apparently guard a later-era pagoda. The more you look at it, the more odd the Liao pagoda looks. The main pagoda in the middle was built after the accompanying pagodas.

"This is an impossible design for a Tang temple," said Yun. "The only possible explanation is that the north pagoda was damaged in the Liao Dynasty and the Liao architects rebuilt one in Liao style."

Whatever was the equivalent of a tourism authority in the Liao Dynasty probably debated the costs and merits of restoration and rebuilding back then, with the mixed results still visible today. Indeed, these architects of old were thinking centuries ahead if Yun's second amazing story is to be believed.

The temple in 1989 decided to replace 176 damaged slabs in the North Pagoda terrace. Although all 176 had once born identical carvings, the architects did not know the original pattern. Repair work had to halt as they argued about the correct pattern. Two days later, a heavy rain fell.

A heavy concrete mixer beside the pagoda began to slowly sink. It sank one meter, and revealed 177 carvings.

"The ancient 176 slabs were then attached to the pagoda," said Yun. "The remaining extra one is now stored in the temple. The ancient architects had gone to the trouble of preparing for future repairs."

Three more pagodas built in the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) stand to the north of the north pagoda. Stone tables and stools sit and stand out front.

## Shoes off, mouth shut

Pay 10 extra yuan, take off your shoes and seal your mouth. Holy relics of Sakyamuni were discovered in two places: under the Tian Kai Pagoda 10 kilometers north and brought

also in Lei Yin Dong. They were brought together at Yun Ju Temple, but a Taiwan Province temple recently borrowed some.

"The yellow relic is Sakyamuni's flesh, the black his hair and the white the bone," says the Yun Ju Temple guide at the site.

"Locals saw blue sparks lingering around the Tian Kai Pagoda every night. With the aid of an archeologist, they found the relics in a stone box buried under the pagoda."

Other attractions

The temple also stores 77,000 wooden tablets and 22,000 Buddhist books. Claret characters catch the eye: monk Zu Hui wrote with his own blood. Zu bled his tongue and collected the contents in a bowl. Salt was added-to the blood, not his tongue-to prevent the characters from fading.

Four halls here display the emperors' imperial edicts, ancient porcelain containers, records of criminal cases and imperial jade toys. Yun Ju Temple fills about three hours.

*Getting to Yun Ju Temple:* Bus 917 from Tian Qiao to Yun Ju Temple; during May-October, bus 10 from Qianmen to Yun Ju Temple, 7am daily *Open:* 8:30am-5:30pm *Admittance:* 30 yuan for the temple, 10 yuan for Sakyamuni relics; *Meal charge:* Twenty yuan per person

*Tips:* The vegetarian meals here make for a healthy break from fatty city fare. Some guides here speak English (not good)

For the Bathe Buddha Festival (Yu Fo Jie) on May 18, a religious rite and fair will be held at the temple. Yun said it always rains that day, without exception. *Beijing Today* recommends you go and prove Yun wrong.

## Afternoon tour

Cable cars are available from Yun Ju Temple to Lei Yin Dong. Taxi drivers all know the location of the start of the walk to Lei Yin Dong. The walk takes about 40 minutes.

Climb the rugged path. Locally dubbed 玉路 "Jade Road", the path was laid with marble, the same as used for Mao Zedong's statue in the Tiananmen mausoleum.

Twenty minutes later, there's the ticket office. Another 20 minutes' walk will bring visitors to the caves housing 4,196 stone scripture carvings. Two terraced slopes were carved into the mountainside here. The lower includes two caves, the upper seven. The upper, Lei Yin Dong (Thunder Cave), is open to tourists.

Four columns bearing 1,000 Buddhas glisten in the afternoon sunshine. Surrounding them, 146 stone tablets are installed in the walls. Most are well preserved.

In 1341, the Korean monk Hui Yue stopped at the stone temple. He repaired the broken carvings of the tablets. Hui's work looks like it was just finished yesterday.

Beside the Thunder Cave, the remaining eight caves on the mountain have been sealed with a stone door since the Sui Dynasty.

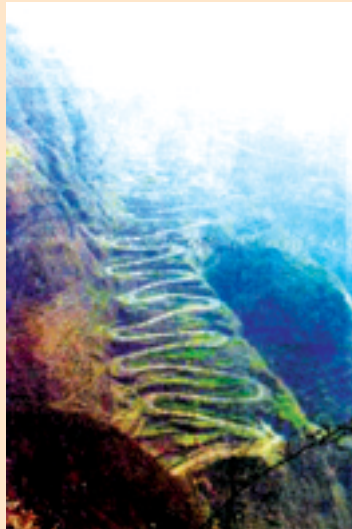
The tablets nearby bear the will and testament of the monk Jingwan "The caves should not be opened until the extinction of the last paper scripture."

North stands the ruin of the temple's main hall with two Buddha relieves in the rock wall behind.

## Chinawide



Photograph of January 10, 1942



Ge Shuya's photograph of March 2 this year

## Freedom Road

By Jiang Zhong

History and legend know her as the Burma Road, a 548-mile route running from Kunming, the capital of China's southwestern province of Yunnan, to Wanding, on the border with Burma.

Undertaken by the Chinese after the start of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937 and completed in 1938, it was used to transport war supplies landed at Rangoon and shipped by railroad to Lashio. It served as a vital supply route to the interior of China from Rangoon. But when the Japanese overran Burma in 1942, it was closed.

Allied forces kept things moving by constructing a road from Ledo, India, connecting to that portion of the Burma Road still in China's control. This traffic increased in importance to China after the Japanese took effective control of the Chinese coast and of Indochina.

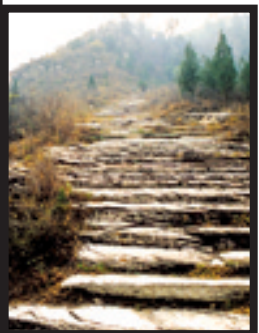
The Ledo Road (later the Stilwell Road) from Ledo, India, into Myanmar was begun in December 1942. In 1944, the Ledo Road reached Myitkyina and was joined to the Burma Road. Both roads have lost their former importance and are in a state of disrepair.

The famous curved section of the Burma Road, a frequent feature of World War II Southeast Asia photo galleries, is in Qinglong County, Guizhou. Twenty-four curves are included in the four-kilometer section. Some war stories and reports mistakenly locate this site in Burma.

Ge Shuya, a Chinese Second World War expert, said the Dianqian Road, a section of the Burma Road running through Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, passes through Qinglong County, with the curved section one kilometer southwest of the county. Some media have cited the wrong information from American WW II reports.



Buddha statue beside Lei Yin Dong



The Jade Road



Tomb pagoda of Monk Jingwan at Yun Ju Temple



Monk fresco at Lei Yin Dong



Tablet bearing one thousand Buddha statues



Detail of the columns at Lei Yin Dong



Stone scripture carvings at Lei Yin Dong



Thunder Cave  
Photos by Zhao Shiyu